

# Jordan Times

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## U.S. sees 'genuine opportunity' for peace

TUNIS (R) — The United States believes there is a real chance of progress in Middle East peace talks with the new Israeli government of Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin, a U.S. official said on Friday. "We think that there is a genuine opportunity to make progress in the peace process, and we are going to do whatever possible for that aim," Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian told reporters in the Tunisian capital. He was speaking at the end of a North African tour during which he held talks on Middle East peace and the Lockerbie plane bombing with King Hassan of Morocco, Algerian head of state Ali Kafi and President Zine Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia. The focus in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks was now on interim self-government arrangements for the Palestinians, Mr. Djerejian said. "Now, with the arrival of Mr. Rabin, we should wait until finally he acts a coalition and forms a government, and secondly the Israeli government position on that question," he said. The sixth round of bilateral peace talks scheduled to take place in Rome were a very important stage in the peace process. "Our big hope is that Arab parties and Israel are preparing for this round so that we can get true progress on the questions of substance," Mr. Djerejian said.

## Sudan criticised for relocations

NAIROBI (AP) — Sudan was accused by a human rights organisation Friday of forcibly and illegally relocating hundreds of thousands of people from its capital of Khartoum. Africa Watch also accused the United Nations of ignoring the advice of its own experts and offering Sudan millions of dollars worth of assistance to continue the programme. The New York-based agency said Sudan's military government has bulldozed and burned the homes of about 500,000 people in squatter camps around the capital in recent months. "At least 30 people have been killed in the operation," Africa Watch said, "while hundreds of thousands are hungry, destitute and without shelter." It described most of those affected as non-Muslim southern Sudanese who fled to Khartoum to escape the country's civil war in the south. "They are now the victims of the Islamic fundamentalist government's policies of systematic racial discrimination," Africa Watch said. The government says the displaced southerners have been squatting illegally and their settlements increase the risk of epidemic disease in Khartoum. But Africa Watch said the relocations have increased the dangers of sickness because the new sites up to 110 kilometres from the capital lack water, sanitation and health facilities.

## Poland gets first woman leader

WARSAW (AP) — Parliament approved centrist lawmaker Hanna Suchocka as prime minister Friday, ending a five-week cabinet crisis. Lawmakers in the Sejm (lower house), broke into applause after the 233-61 vote approving Ms. Suchocka as the fifth prime minister since the communists lost power in 1989. There were 113 abstentions, and the other members of the 460-seat house were absent. The Chamber earlier Friday accepted the resignation of prime minister Waldemar Pawlak. Ms. Suchocka, a member of the Democratic Union Party, the largest faction in the fragmented parliament, leads a coalition of seven parties spun off from the Solidarity union movement. In a letter to the Sejm, President Lech Walesa said he hoped Ms. Suchocka would be able to form "an effective and stable government, enjoying a firm support of a parliamentary majority."

## Mandela to address Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela plans to address the emergency Security Council session next week on the violence in South Africa and stalled peace talks. Nigeria's U.N. ambassador Ibrahim A. Gambari, head of the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid, told a news conference that Mr. Mandela would attend the special session next Wednesday. He also said that Clarence Mkwetu, president of the Pan-African Congress, another black South African group, would speak, as well as nine foreign ministers representing members of the Organisation of African Unity. He said the council session could last at least two days to accommodate all those wishing to speak. Earlier, U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance said he was likely to visit South Africa after next week's council session.

## Denktash promises goodwill in talks

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash promised on Friday to approach next week's U.N.-sponsored Cyprus talks with goodwill, but said he would not put his name to any settlement he disagreed with. "I am going to New York with goodwill," he told a news conference in Nicosia. "But I won't sign or initial any agreement not acceptable to me. We want to be heard and heard well, before any decisions are taken, because the way things appear, the Greek-Cypriot side is being encouraged." Mr. Denktash flies to Ankara on Monday on his way to New York to resume talks on July 5 with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on how to reunite the divided island. Dr. Ghali, who will hold parallel talks with Cypriot President George Vassiliou, is trying to win agreement on details of a federal solution.

## Turkish court bans socialist party

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's constitutional court ordered the closure of the Socialist Party on Friday, accusing it of acting against the integrity of the country. Anadolu news agency reported. It said the court, the highest judicial body in Turkey, also ordered the party's assets transferred to the treasury. The Socialist Party, formed in 1988, won less than one per cent of the vote in general elections in October. The chief prosecutor of the Turkish court of appeals on Monday asked the constitutional court to close the Kurdish-based People's Labour Party (HEP) on similar grounds. HEP has 18 members of parliament, who won their seats in October when the party was in electoral alliance with the mainstream Socialist Democrat Populist Party (SHP).

## Rebel Kurds kill guard in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Rebel Kurds killed a village guard in a clash in southeast Turkey where more than 4,000 people have been killed in an eight-year-long guerrilla war. The semi-official Anadolu news agency said on Friday the guard was killed overnight in a gunbattle with Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas.

## Intense moves to end Fateh-Hamas violence

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Arab leaders from Israel and the occupied West Bank went to the Gaza Strip on Friday in a bid to end violent feuding between rival Palestinian factions.

A boy was killed and more than 150 other Palestinians were injured in a week of clashes between supporters of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Fateh movement.

The clashes were the bloodiest factional fighting since the start of the uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories in December 1987.

Tension between Hamas and Fateh is underpinned by radically different views of current U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks.

Israeli-Arab parliament member Abdul Wahab Darwiche, Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, head of Arab local councils in Israel, and Sheikh Rased Salah, a prominent Islamic mayor came to Gaza on Friday and immediately went into meetings with local leaders.

Saab Erakat, a member of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks from the West Bank town of Jericho, was also in Gaza for the talks. Leading Palestinian nationalist Faisal Al Husseini was also trying to mediate. Similar efforts by chief peace negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi have been futile.

## Arafat accuses Hamas tactics

TUNIS (R) — Yasser Arafat accused the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas on Friday of raising the stakes in its confrontation with Fateh in the occupied territories as the Middle East peace process was entering a crucial stage. He said Hamas was being manipulated by Israeli occupation forces at a time when Palestinians needed unity more than ever. "In these crucial weeks... there is no place for raising the stakes on the question of (religious) belief or nationalism," Mr. Arafat said in a message to Palestinians published by the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

"All the people of Palestine are believers. Not only Muslims, but Muslims and Christians in their all tendencies are believers. We all are fighters and militants against the occupation," Mr. Arafat said. Fateh's Central Committee approved at a meeting in Tunis on Thursday an agreement concluded on Wednesday in Amman between Fateh and Hamas calling for an end to the clashes.

Palestinian sources said 15 people were wounded overnight as Israeli troops trying to stem further fighting confined Palestinians to their homes in parts of Gaza. The violence

has not spread to the occupied West Bank.

In Amman, Fateh said Hamas said on Thursday they had agreed to halt factional killings in the occupied territories.

"We call for an immediate halt to the regrettable killings and clashes among the sons of the two movements," Fateh and Hamas said in a statement. "We hope the two sides will stick to the agreement and we will end this bloody fighting," said Sheikh Ibrahim Ghosheh, Hamas's spokesman, after three hours of closed-door talks.

In their statement Hamas and the PLO called for renewed dialogue and cooperation and an immediate halt to media campaigns, dangerous communications and wall graffiti. "Anything that happens after this call is made will be considered a plot from the Zionists and their agents who are unhappy with the joint agreement and are seeking to ignite strife," the statement said.

Fateh also reaffirmed its respect for Hamas as "a nationalistic Palestinian faction," and denied accusations that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat wanted to undermine the movement.

Hamas leaders from the occupied territories, identified for security reasons only as Abdul Aziz and Abu Mohammad, along with leaders from Fateh and the Muslim Brotherhood, which is believed to direct Hamas, attended the meeting. "We urge restraint among all our

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## CSCE adopts new blueprint; West acts on Yugoslavia

HELSINKI (Agencies) — Fifty-one nations adopted a new security blueprint for post-cold war Europe on Friday as Western states agreed to mount an unprecedented air and sea operation to enforce sanctions against Serbia over the Yugoslav bloodshed. A two-day conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) summit ended with the approval of new mechanisms to defuse mounting ethnic and national conflict since the collapse of the Soviet communist empire.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the leaders: "If we don't take the necessary measures... this disease could become the real plague of the 21st century."

Russia actually recognises the danger of aggressive nationalism which is now replacing the ideological confrontation of the past," he said.

"An epidemic of this disease could spin out of control and quickly grip an enormous number of people and entire states."

The summit condemned Serbia for the war in former Yugoslavia, saying Belgrade bore prime responsibility for the bloodshed in which at least 14,000 people have died.

The blueprint endorsed by the pan-European forum provides for new arms control negotiations, CSCE-sponsored peacekeeping operations and a high commissioner for national minorities to prevent conflicts such as those plaguing the former Soviet bloc.

The leaders met symbolically in the Finnish capital where the first CSCE accords on security, economic cooperation and human rights were signed in 1975. These were seen at the time as cementing the Soviet Union's grip on Eastern Europe.

During the summit, foreign

ministers of the Western European Union and NATO met separately and agreed on a joint operation with warships, maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters to tighten U.N. sanctions by monitoring shipping in the Otranto Channel and the Adriatic sea. It was the first time the nine-nation WEU, designated as the future military arm of the European Community, had mounted such an operation.

Yugoslavia's prime minister-designate, Milan Panic, pledged Friday to bring peace to his battered homeland and warned Serbia's leader: "God help him if he gets in my way."

Mr. Panic, who is a Yugoslav-born U.S. businessman called in to lead the splintered country's weakened federal government, declared he agrees with everything U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told him in a one-on-one meeting at the end of the European security summit.

Mr. Baker, speaking to reporters after the meeting, said Mr. Panic agreed that Serbia needs to withdraw, disarm and disband forces it has been supporting in newly independent Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But Mr. Baker added, "the world still demands deeds from Yugoslavia, not just words."

Mr. Panic spoke in animated determination at a news conference broadcast live by Cable News Network after he met with Mr. Baker, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Croatian Foreign Minister Franjo Tudjman.

He had come to Helsinki uninvited by the conference, which has suspended Yugoslavia's membership for 100 days, allowing him time to seek peace before expulsion from the alliance is considered.



A U.N. inspection team continues its vigil outside Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

## Iraq urges restriction on U.N. inspectors

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A defiant Iraq, locked in a standoff with U.N. weapons inspectors mounting a vigil outside a ministry building, said on Friday the activities of such teams should be curbed.

"We want to tell them (U.N. inspectors) that there is a limit to what they want to do here," an Iraqi official, who refused to be named, told Reuters in an interview.

"It was time the Security Council realised that it should restrict the inspectors' activities in Iraq," the official added.

The council earlier this week demanded that Iraq let the inspection team, headed by U.S. Major Karen Jensen, into the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation building

where diplomats say the team suspects Iraq has stored information about ballistic missiles.

The U.N. special commission charged with scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction backed up the council's demand by sending Douglas Englund, U.N. head of field operations, to Baghdad to discuss the standoff with Iraq and make proposals to resolve the impasse.

"We are entitled to enter any place that is designated by the special commission," Mr. Englund told reporters in Baghdad.

But the Iraqis have so far shown no sign that they will back down. They say Mr. Englund's presence in Baghdad is not to dictate terms but "to negotiate."

U.N. inspectors maintained their vigil outside the ministry in Baghdad

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## Tunisia presses ahead with trial of Al Nahda activists

TUNIS (Agencies) — A second group of Muslim fundamentalists went on trial in Tunisia on Friday and court officials said more than 100 of the 108 defendants faced the death penalty.

The fundamentalists, allegedly members of the banned Al Nahda (Renaissance) movement, appeared in a heavily guarded military court and chanted the national hymn at the start of the session.

The defendants are charged with plotting last year to assassinate President Zine Abidine Ben Ali either with a rocket attack on his plane or by a suicide assault on his palace as part of a campaign to establish an Islamic state.

On Thursday, the court announced that 48 of 171 defendants in a first group faced the death penalty in one of the biggest trials of fundamentalists in the region in years.

Among those facing the death penalty in the second trial are Al Nahda's number two, Al Laridhi, and members of its executive committee Ziad Doulati and Sohoun Al Jawhari. Several soldiers and police are among the defendants.

The court agreed to a defence request to postpone questioning of the second group until July 27 while the trial of the first group is held at a police barracks at Bar do, near Tunis.

The trial for the second batch is taking place in a military barracks near Bab Saadoun in Tunis where heavily-armed troops and police stood guard.

In neighbouring Algeria, the trial of seven leaders of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front is scheduled to resume Sunday.

The Tunis courtroom was packed with defendants, sympathisers, attorneys and observers from Amnesty International, the International Federation of Human Rights, the United States embassy and elsewhere.

The defendants entered, crying "Allah Akbar," with their fists raised in the air or hands forming the sign for victory.

Bechir Gueddous, a civil judge, read the charges during the three-hour session before adjourning the court.

Defence attorneys said they wanted time to examine the interrogation of the defendants and the final confessions upon which

## Rabin ready to form government; fate of Tsomet seen unclear

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin on Friday notified President Chaim Herzog that he succeeded in forming a government and made a last-minute effort to woo a right-wing party into his left-leaning coalition.

Mr. Rabin is to present his government to parliament on Monday for approval, completing the task assigned by Mr. Herzog two weeks ahead of the deadline.

Mr. Rabin said his government will be committed to accelerating Middle East peace moves.

"I am honoured to inform you I have formed a government," Mr. Rabin said in a two-sentence letter to Mr. Herzog. "I have sent an announcement to the speaker of parliament."

The 70-year-old Labour party leader regained power last month after losing it 15 years ago to the hardline Likud party. He plans to present his government to his own party on Sunday and to parliament on Monday.

Mr. Rabin is committed to giving Palestinians limited self-rule by early next year and curbing Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He is expected to discuss Arab-Israeli peace talks with President George Bush in the United States next month ahead of the resumption of Middle East peace talks in Rome.

Mr. Rabin signed an agreement late on Thursday with the ultra-orthodox Shas Party hours after sealing a pact with the leftist Meretz bloc, guaranteeing the Labour-led coalition 62 seats in the 120-seat parliament.

Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni, who favours creation of a Palestinian state alongside of Israel, was promised the education ministry.

Five legislators from two Arab parties will back Mr. Rabin from outside the government, increasing his administration's stability.

Middle East peace talks, which

began in Madrid last October, stagnated over then-prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to contemplate any land-for-peace deal or to curb Jewish settlement in the occupied lands.

Labour still hoped to widen the coalition to include the eight-seat rightist Tsomet party led by Rafael Eitan, army chief during Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion.

Shas leader Arye Deri, interior minister in both the new and old governments, flew to Morocco, a Shas official said on Friday. Israel Radio said King Hassan invited the Moroccan-born Deri despite a lack of official ties.

The coalition would have the support of at least 62 members in the parliament — 44 from Labour, 12 from Meretz and six from Shas. Two Arabs and three communist legislators are expected to support the coalition from outside.

Mr. Rabin on Friday made another attempt to bring Tsomet, which commands eight seats, into the coalition. Mr. Rabin's one-hour meeting with Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan ended without agreement, but talks will continue, Israel Radio said.

Mr. Eitan, a hawkish former army chief of staff, demanded to be given the defence portfolio after his first choice, education, was awarded to Meretz. Mr. Rabin has refused, apparently wanting to retain direct control over the defence ministry, which will play a key role in autonomy talks with the Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin says he wants to form a broad-based government as possible. His strategy is to bring in more parties than absolutely necessary for a parliamentary majority so no faction could blackmail him by threatening to quit.

As part of the deal, Meretz has the right to campaign for the right of Palestinians for self-determination and for bringing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) into the negotiations if it recognises Israel and renounces terrorism.

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## King Hassan to receive Israeli minister

RABAT (R) — Israeli Interior Minister Arye Deri was due in Morocco on Friday to confer with King Hassan who invited him to discuss Middle East peace prospects, a source close to the palace said.

The king was hosting a luncheon party for foreign guests and Moroccan dignitaries on Friday on the occasion of his 63rd birthday at the royal guest palace in Rabat.

Mr. Deri, 33, an ultra-orthodox Jewish rabbi of Moroccan origin, will represent the Shas party in a new coalition government led by Labour Party leader and Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin.

King Hassan, a close friend of U.S. President George Bush, has had a series of contacts with Israeli leaders in the past in efforts to break the deadlock in the Israeli-Arab conflict.

In an interview with the French daily Liberation published on Tuesday, the king welcomed the Labour Party's June 23 win at the polls. He said he expected a change in the style and methods of Israel's approach to the peace process.

He indicated that he was prepared to meet Mr. Rabin. "I do not want to hamper the action of people who I think are positive and want to be efficient... if they think they should call on me we shall see."

King Hassan had a secret meeting in October 1976 with Mr. Rabin during a previous term as prime minister. He arrived in Rabat incognito wearing a blond wig and spectacles. Their talks produced no positive results, officials said.

He also conferred with Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres in July 1986 at a tete-a-tete meeting at a royal chateau in the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifrane, again without result.

Israeli radio was reported as saying Mr. Deri would try to arrange to take to Israel the remains of Moroccan Jewish emigrants who perished when their ship sank off the Mediterranean coast in January 1961.

## Businessmen say Jordan tightening trade ban against Iraq

By Jane Arraf  
Reuters

ZARCA DUTY FREE ZONE — Merchants say Jordan is tightening the trade noose on Iraq and millions of dollars worth of Baghdad-bound goods are being held up at this duty-free zone in the Jordanian desert.

"It has got so bad we are thinking of shutting down our operations here," said Jordanian Kamel Yousef Nader, whose food export company was fighting a \$300 fine for having a single 25-kilogramme bag missing from a truckload of sugar.

"They don't understand that if it spills on the ground you can't put it back," he told Reuters on Thursday.

Jordanian exporters had been circumventing U.N. sanctions against Iraq by smuggling food, medicine and select humanitarian supplies by splitting shipments into consignments of less than 500 kilograms, traders and clearing agents said.

They said up until two months ago such loads of goods including car spares and clothing were approved as personal shipments to appease Jordanian merchants stuck with cargo ordered before the trade ban.

Traders who supply most of Iraq's food imports say tighter controls aimed at barring duty-free goods from being diverted to the Jordanian market are hurting even shipments clearly

approved by the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

The United States has been putting pressure on Jordan to curb the flow of goods to Iraq, Jordanians sympathised with Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

"We are losing money because of the delays," said Abdullah Subhy Hazori, whose family's Lebanese-based company, Harico, exports about \$100,000 worth of flour, sugar, rice and ghee to Iraq every day.

He said exporters as well as their customers were already suffering from a sharp drop in the value of the Iraqi dinar last year which has cut into purchasing power.

At his warehouse piled to the rafters with sugar and flour a white-robed man hired to count

sacks stands tallying bags of rice as labourers lift them on to a flatbed truck. The shipment will then undergo two government inspections before being covered, sealed and sent to Iraq by road.

"Since February we have been facing a lot of problems getting food into Iraq at the border and from the duty-free zone," said Sheikh Khalid Samara, a major Iraqi exporter.

He said 17 cargo containers of eggs he imported in June were turned back. "Only (more expensive) Jordanian eggs are now allowed to go to Baghdad."

Group's of businessmen have complained about the restrictions to Finance Minister Basil

Jardaneh, who refuses to comment publicly on sanctions. "There is \$600 million worth of goods (in the duty-free zone) and most of it is just sitting there," fumed one business leader.

Washington, which wants Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ousted, turned up the pressure on Jordan recently by holding up military exercises and aid in anger at what it considers continued sanctions-busting.

Jordan has always maintained it is strictly adhering to U.S. trade sanctions against Iraq, its biggest trading partner.

Traders and clearing agents said Jordan had halted imports of Iraqi goods such as wool, tar and leather last summer.



## Egypt tightens laws to battle extremist surge

CAIRO (AP) — A draft law aimed at curbing violence by Muslim extremists demands stiff penalties for terrorism raising sentences to capital punishment and life in prison in some cases.

The cabinet approved Wednesday the draft law amending some clauses of the penal code and submitted it to parliament for passage. Daily state-run papers published details of the projected amendments in Friday's early editions.

Justice Minister Farouk Seif Al Nasr told Al-Ahram daily "Egypt has in recent years witnessed violence, terrorism and extremism by groups and individuals."

"The amendments will help confront terrorism with severe penalties and quick procedures."

The text of the draft amendments did not refer to Muslim extremists by name, but the government has been pushed to develop the new measures after recent violence involving Islamic militant groups.

About 30 people died this year, including Christians, and policemen in attacks the security blame on Muslim extremists.

During an ongoing spate of violence that began in the spring in southern Egypt, more than 400 suspects have been detained under an existing emergency law which allows wide powers of arrest and search. The emergency law will remain in force.

Existing laws referring to anti-government crimes deal with general acts against Egypt, and set lighter penalties than the draft law.

Under the amended laws, anyone convicted of contacting a foreign country or organization with the intent of committing a terrorist act within Egypt or against Egyptian property or citizens abroad will be imprisoned for life at hard labour, Al-Ahram said.

The penalty will be death if terrorism has been committed. Anyone convicted of founding, leading or funding an organization which undermines the constitution or the state or attacks personal freedom or endangers social stability will be sentenced to prison at hard labour for varying terms.

The same sentence will be handed to anyone who propagates the ideology of such a group or who is convicted of recruiting members in places of worship, the armed forces or the police.

A death sentence will face anyone convicted of resorting to terrorism through such an organization.

Anyone convicted of supplying groups with arms, explosives or money will be sentenced to death or life in prison at hard labour.

Under the existing law, death sentences in political cases connected to undermining the security can be commuted to unspecified prison terms. After the amendments, a death sentence would only be commuted to life in prison.

Also to be amended will be the Bank Secrecy Act, to allow the attorney general or his representative to inspect bank accounts. Al-Ahram said previous cases have shown that terrorist groups were funded from abroad but authorities did not have the right to inspect defendants' accounts.

## Israeli Arabs seek equal opportunity

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Bridging the gap of equality between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs is a central issue in Israel today, Dr. Majid Al Haj, an Israeli Arab spokesman, told an American audience Wednesday.

Dr. Haj and Eugene Wiener, both professors of sociology at Haifa University, spoke on the importance of Arab and Jewish coexistence during a discussion sponsored by B'nai B'rith in Washington.

While the peace process was an important issue in the recent Israeli elections, for Israeli Arabs as well as Israeli Jews, the internal issues were most important, Dr. Haj said. These issues include employment, improving economic conditions and bridging

the gaps between groups in Israel, he said.

Dr. Haj, who served as an Israeli television analyst of the Arab vote in the recent election, noted that 55 per cent of Israeli Arabs voted for Labour and Meretz in the hopes of bettering their status.

In voting for Labour, Israeli Arabs joined Soviet Jewish immigrants and Sephardic Jews in wanting "a change in status and improved conditions in life," he said.

Satisfying these groups will be a "major mission" for the new Israeli prime minister, Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin, Dr. Haj said.

The Labour Party, Dr. Haj noted, has stated its commitment

"to bridging the gap between Jews and Arabs." Israeli Arabs will now wait and see whether Labour's actions follow through on its rhetoric, he added.

On the issue of equality, at this point Israeli Arabs are "looking to the minimum," Dr. Haj said. Israeli Arabs want equal opportunities in terms of services and employment, he noted.

Dr. Haj said that bettering the status of Israeli Arabs could serve as a confidence-building measure by the Israeli government in the peace process.

While most Israeli Arabs would remain in Israel even if a Palestinian state were established, Dr. Haj said, they would then seek equal citizenship.

## U.N. probes Russian plane incident in Somalia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said on Thursday he would investigate the bizarre controversy of a Russian relief plane pilot who flew banknotes and arms into Somalia under U.N. cover.

The Russian Antonov 30 was leased for Somali relief flights by the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) and carried a Swedish relief team from Nairobi to the Somali capital of Mogadishu on June 24.

The following day Kenyan police impounded the plane, which still carried U.N. markings, after the pilot was alleged to have made a second trip to Somalia to fly in tonnes of Somali banknotes.

U.N. spokesman Francois Guiliani said the load also included military equipment.

"The secretary-general is taking steps for a full investigation of this incident," Mr. Guiliani said. Because of the deception, one of the warlords in Somalia, General Mohammad Farah Aided, wanted to eject or postpone the deployment of U.N. military observers, some of whom arrived only on Sunday to monitor a four-month truce.

Gen. Aided, who controls southern Mogadishu, has accused the United Nations of trying to secretly send money to back his rival, self-styled president Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

## Democrats want special counsel for Iraq probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twenty Democrats on the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Thursday asked for the appointment of an independent counsel to look into whether Bush administration officials lied to Congress about U.S. dealings with Iraq before the Gulf war.

Committee Chairman Jack Brooks announced the move after 20 members signed a letter asking Attorney General William Barr to seek the appointment.

U.S. law requires Barr to advise the committee within 30 days whether he has begun, will begin or refuses to begin a preliminary inquiry into the allegations, and why he did so.

If he starts a preliminary inquiry his department has 90 days

to decide whether there is enough evidence to seek appointment of an independent counsel.

Mr. Brooks and his colleagues asked that the counsel investigate:

— Whether laws were violated in U.S. aid to Iraq before its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait;

— Whether the administration illegally falsified documents given to congressional panels.

Possible White House interference in the federal investigation of more than \$4 billion in loans to Iraq by the Atlanta branch of an Italian bank.

Such a probe could have an effect on the Nov. 3 election, focusing attention on President George Bush's efforts to use U.S.

loan guarantees and other rewards to moderate Baghdad's behaviour — a policy of the administration now admits was a failure.

There is growing evidence that the U.S. favours Iraq, far from encouraging moderation, helped Iraq build up its military and advance its missile and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes — and that top officials in the administration knew it.

Mr. Barr was asked last week in a televised interview about the law that authorizes the appointment of an independent counsel, and said: "There are elements in this town who are attempting to use the criminal process for political purposes."

## FBI said probing lobbyists on Lockerbie deal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is probing whether lobbyists pressing families of victims of the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing to accept a financial settlement are agents of Libya, a U.S. official said on Thursday.

"The FBI is investigating whether they are agents of Libya" and may have violated U.S. law or United Nations sanctions as a result, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

The State Department confirmed some families have been contacted by two lawyers who discussed a financial settlement in the case, which involved the bombing of the plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 that killed 270 people.

The NBC Television network reported on Wednesday that the families are being pressed to accept \$1 million apiece in a deal that would allow Libya to save face by turning over two suspects in the attack to a sympathetic country.

The television report showed

videotapes of lobbyists for Henry Kartshner, identified only as an American agriculturalist, offering a victim's family \$1 million in a plan aimed at lifting U.S. trade sanctions against Libya.

Mr. Kartshner stands to "make millions" if the sanctions, imposed against Libya until it turns over the alleged Lockerbie bombers to the United States or Britain, are lifted, the report said.

The lobbyists want the alleged bombers of the plane, which crashed in December 1988, to be turned over to a third country that would be more sympathetic to Libya, the television report said. It did not mention the country.

The lobbyists were identified as Val Miller, a lawyer, and C. McClain Haddow, a former Reagan administration official.

NBC said Mr. Kartshner and the lobbyists met top Libyan officials in Zurich to determine the \$1 million-a-family figure, but Mr. Kartshner denied he was trying to cut a deal in the Lockerbie bombing with the Zurich

meeting.

A bomb hidden inside a cassette player on Pan Am Flight 103 killed all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground on December 21, 1988. Of those killed, 189 were Americans.

Two Libyans have been indicted in the United States for their role in getting the bomb aboard the plane, but Libya refused to turn over the suspects, prompting the U.N. Security Council to impose tough sanctions.

British relatives of the victims of Flight 103 will resist any attempts to bribe them into dropping their campaign to have the killers brought to justice, one of their leaders said Thursday.

Dr. Jim Swire, whose daughter Flora was among those who died in the bombing, said Mr. Kartshner's action "seems to me to be an attempt to bribe those who want to see justice done into perverting the course of justice."

"As such it is totally unacceptable to the British group," he said in an interview with British radio.

Dr. Swire reads the group UK Families-Flight 103.

"It could not succeed with the British relatives."

"If we stand for anything, it is for an attempt to get to the truth and get justice applied to those who are guilty and to take such steps open to us to make sure such a thing never happens again," he said.

"It is simply not the case that precious people's lives are negotiable in terms of money and anyone who thinks that is the case should forget it here and now."

Dr. Swire said he was unaware that Mr. Kartshner had approached any British relatives.

Carole Johnson, whose daughter Beth Ann died, said two of Mr. Kartshner's representatives visited her at home in Greensburg, 30 southeast of Pittsburgh, on June 30.

She said they implied that she and her husband, Glenn, would get \$1 million if they signed a letter to the U.S. Congress asking that the Libyan situation be resolved.

## Fed fines ex-Saudi bank head \$170m

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve has fined Sheikh Khalid Ben Mahfouz, until days ago head of Saudi Arabia's largest bank, a record \$170 million for allegedly secretly buying control of the largest bank in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the Treasury Department's comptroller of the currency has ordered the Saudi Bank, National Commercial Bank, to cease all U.S. operations from its New York City branch within 30 days.

The Federal Reserve's action late Wednesday and the comptroller's action Tuesday followed a July 1 indictment in New York City against Mr. Ben Mahfouz charging him with defrauding customers of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) of as much as \$300 million.

Mr. Ben Mahfouz resigned his position at National Commercial

Bank July 7. He also had been a director of the scandal-ridden BCCI, which closed a year ago.

According to the Federal Reserve, Mr. Ben Mahfouz violated U.S. law in 1986 by acquiring control of 28.7 per cent of the parent holding company of the Washington bank, First American Bank, without obtaining Federal Reserve approval.

The Federal Reserve said Mr. Ben Mahfouz acquired control of the First American Bank parent illegally through BCCI, which at times owned or controlled up to 60 per cent of the voting shares.

The Federal Reserve also charged that Mr. Ben Mahfouz helped BCCI complete a number of transactions designed to conceal BCCI's weak financial condition.

A spokesman said \$170 million is the largest penalty ever assessed by the Federal Reserve against an individual; it has fined

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Greece jails Achilles Lauro suspect

ATHENS (AP) — A court on Thursday convicted and sentenced Palestinian Abdul Rahim Khaled to 16 months on false passport charges, further delaying his extradition to Italy for allegedly masterminding the Achilles Lauro hijacking. The court found Khaled, 56, guilty of entering Greece with a false passport, but acquitted him of possessing explosives. Khaled faced the explosives charge following his arrest in Athens in March 1991. At the time of his arrest, police found a bomb in his apartment. Two Greeks arrested along with Khaled were convicted of possessing explosives and sentenced to 15 and 16 month jail terms. The Greek Justice Ministry last December sanctioned a supreme court decision and approved Khaled's extradition to Italy to serve a life sentence for allegedly masterminding the 1985 hijacking of the Achilles Lauro cruise ship. An Italian court in 1987 convicted and sentenced Khaled in absentia. Khaled has been identified by Italian authorities as a ranking member of the Palestinian Liberation front, the group which carried out the hijacking. He has claimed his arrest was due to a case of mistaken identity. "I want the supreme court to re-examine its extradition decision. I had nothing to do with the Achilles Lauro," he told the court.

### Greece: EC aid to Turkey linked to Cyprus

ATHENS (AP) — Greece has said it will lift its veto on a \$750 million European Community (EC) aid package to Turkey only if there is progress on the Cyprus problem. "Progress is needed if Greece is to disengage its objections on lifting its veto on the protocol. Progress means movement towards a positive solution," Foreign Ministry spokesman Dimitris Avramopoulos told reporters. He was referring to the fourth financial protocol, the last of a series of aid packages the EC agreed to give Turkey when it became an associate member of the trade bloc in 1963. It was frozen on human rights grounds during the 1980 military coup in Turkey. Although democracy was restored in 1983, the EC has not released the funds because of Greek objections over Cyprus. Mr. Avramopoulos said Greece last month lifted its veto over \$400 million in Turkish aid that was part of an EC Mediterranean aid package "as a sample of our good intentions towards Turkey."

### Turkey sending volunteers to Muslim republics

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey will send volunteer professional workers to the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union to help develop their economy and political institutions, officials announced. The United Nations Development Programme will contribute \$100,000 and provide technical assistance under an agreement signed here Wednesday. Ambassador Unut Arlik of Turkey said in a signing ceremony that Turkey's initial contribution to the project was \$213,000 and that the United States, Japan and European Community (EC) countries were expected to give money. The volunteer corps is the latest step by Turkey to introduce democratic and secular ideas in the region and act as a Western bulwark against attempts by Iran to spread its brand of Muslim fundamentalism. The first group of volunteers — to be selected among doctors, lawyers, engineers, economists and teachers — will head to one of the republics by the fall.

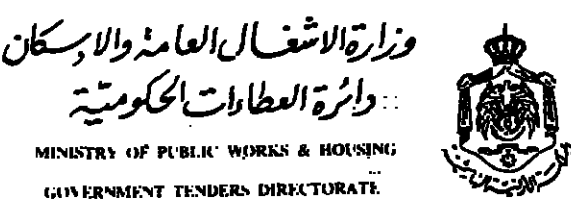
### Rabid dogs kill 20 in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Rabid dogs killed 20 people in the past year in Algeria and 56,000 people went for treatment after being bitten, an official at Algiers Pasteur Institute said. He said 320 of the 800 dogs and cats tested by the institute after being found dead had proved to be rabid. The 20 people died because they failed to seek treatment after being bitten, the official added.

### Kenyan officials detain ship over sanctions

MOBASA, Kenya (R) — Kenyan officials have detained a cargo vessel on suspicion of breaking United Nations sanctions against Iraq. The officials identified the ship as the Belize-flagged MV Barron and said they had detained it following requests from the U.N. and the British government. They said it was carrying 200 tonnes of tuna fish and 3,000 tonnes of salt. The sanctions imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 exclude food but government officials said they believed Iraqi merchants were making big profits from trading and sending the money to the Baghdad government. Iraq's foreign assets are frozen and it has refused U.N. terms to sell its oil to raise cash.

In a statement issued July 8 in response to the Fed. charges, Mr. Ben Mahfouz said, "The ill-founded allegations made against me are based on forged documents and the actions of others. Further, they are based on unreliable, and possibly even compromised, witnesses." He added that he has always acted on the advice of legal counsel to comply with all U.S. laws and regulations.



### Invitation for Bids No. 93, 94 and 95/92/Central

#### Rehabilitation of Irbid Water Networks

Experienced contractors from member states of the European Economic Community and local contractors who have been pre-qualified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing are:

- First grade in water and sewerage
- First grade in building
- Joint venture of 2 second grade companies in water and sewerage
- Second grade in building and third grade in water and sewerage
- Second grade in roads and third grade in water and sewerage

Those interested in the participation in this invitation, are requested to contact the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to collect the tender documents as of 11/07/1992.

1. The project consists of the rehabilitation of the city of Irbid water network.
2. Offers with conditions other than those specified in the tender documents will be rejected.
3. The volume of work-in-hand will be considered when awarding the contracts.
4. The project is partially financed by European Investment Bank.
5. Tender documents are available against the payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 200 for each tender documents.
6. Last date for bid selling is 22/08/1992.
7. Bids are due not later than 13:30 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday 12/09/1992 to the office of the Government Tenders Directorate of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Amman.

Eng. Bashir Jaghbeer  
Chairman/Central Tenders Committee  
General Director/Government Tenders Directorate

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Al Hameh (North Jordan) Hotel & Medical Water  
Ajloun mountains - Dibin - Zai - Dead Sea  
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We have so....?

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les petites histoires presque vraies  
18:30 Les Tortues Ninja  
18:30 La Gymnastique  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 E-M6  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Super Blooper  
21:00 Encounter  
21:30 Saturday variety show  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Naked under Caption

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:57 Fajr  
05:51 (Sunrise) Doha  
12:40 Dhahr  
16:21 'Asr  
19:40 Maghrib  
21:24 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 610740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assiout International Church Tel. 683326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823624, 654922  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 20 / 35  
Aqaba 24 / 41  
Doha 21 / 37  
Jordan Valley 21 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35, Aqaba 43, Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Subell Tamoush 890903  
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 690448  
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056  
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070  
First pharmacy 661912  
Pardous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy 637055  
Nabrook pharmacy 623672  
Al Salim pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shamsal pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohammad Al Bannay (—)  
Al Shara pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushbush (—)  
Khalil pharmacy 785417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency 630341  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 773121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 890390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 603080  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 632101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111

### HOSPITALS

Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 690100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power 636361  
Company 636361  
RJ Flight Information 08-33200  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-33200

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 613813/22  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6  
Alicia Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malha, J. Amman 63140  
Palestine, Shamsal 664171/4  
Shamsal Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 66227/9  
Al-Munster Hospital 66227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 664646  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 77701/5  
Indian, Al-Mahajra 77701/5  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish 77311/26  
Army, Marjeh 891611/5  
Queen Alia Hospital 622405/1

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09327553  
Zarqa National Hospital 0930360  
Ba Sira Hospital 0930372  
Al Bham Modern Hospital 0930390

IBRD:  
Fayoum Bama Hospital 02327553  
Greek Catholic Hospital 02327553  
Bin Al Nafes Hospital 02347100

AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital 05314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 0833200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Kala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)  
06:30 Damascus (RJ)  
08:30 Dhahran (RJ)  
08:30 Cairo (RJ)  
08:30 London (RJ)  
08:45 New Delhi (RJ)  
08:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
11:30 Colombo (RJ)  
11:30 Beirut (RJ)  
17:30 London (RJ)  
19:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30 Sana (YV)  
12:30 Paris (AF)  
15:20 Rome, Beirut (AZ)

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)  
08:40 Amman (RJ)  
12:00 Vienna (RJ)  
12:30 Brussels, London (RJ)  
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:45 Rome, Munich (RJ)  
12:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)  
13:25 Frankfurt (RJ)  
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:55 Cyprus (CY)  
09:15 Beirut (AF)  
12:30 Sana (YV)  
23:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

### MARKET PRICES

#### Upper/lower price in Jls per kg

Apple (red) 700 / 650  
Apricot 400 / 350  
Banana 500 / 450  
Banana (Mekansam) 500 / 300  
Banana 500 / 450  
Cabbage 50 / 30  
Carrot 240 / 80  
Cauliflower 130 / 80  
Cauliflower (large) 70 / 40  
Cauliflower (small) 130 / 80  
Eggplant 240 / 80  
Garlic 700 / 650  
Lemon 650 /



## Family planning projects and lectures mark World Population Day in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Marking World Population Day Saturday, the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund UNFPA, Nafis Sadik, issued a statement to draw the attention of governments to the world's poverty and rapid population growth and to call on people to curtail wasteful consumption and address the problems facing humanity.

The following is Dr. Sadik's message, provided by the UNFPA field office in Amman:

"World Population Day is a day to celebrate humanity. It is a day to look back and consider our achievements. It is also a day to look forward and consider what kind of world our children will inherit.

"Our world supports 5.5 billion people. This is an achievement. However, our numbers are growing faster than at any time in history. We may be asking the future of the Earth as a place for humans to live.

"Today we see not only unprecedented population growth, but unprecedented growth in the consumption of resources, much of it wasteful; an unprecedented number of people living in poverty; and an environment — water, air, and the land itself — threatened by human actions.

"Poverty, rapid population growth and wasteful consumption are part of the same problem, and we must address them together.



Nafis Sadik

We should ask ourselves on World Population Day — how can growth in population and consumption be slowed down; and how can economic and social development go hand in hand with protection of resources and the environment on which development depends? On World Population Day we ask the question: what can be done to create a world in balance.

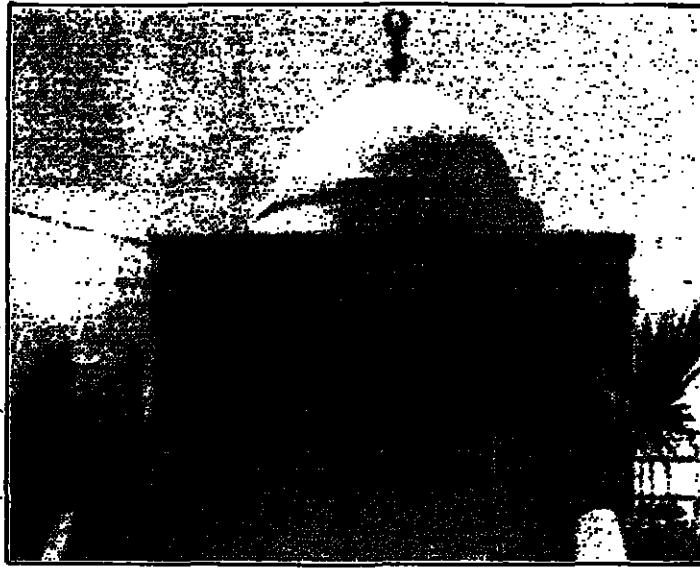
"These will be major themes for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994. During the next 18 months, each region will have its own population conference in preparation for the International Conference. This will be an opportunity for governments, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations and the media to discuss population and its meaning for our future.

The discussion should begin this World Population Day."

In an UNFPA statement, the fund said that in observance of World Population Day, it subcontracted the Jordanian Association for Family Planning and Protection to implement a special project "Promotion of Cooperation among Women and Youth Leaders, Government and Non-governmental Organizations in Population and Family Planning Fields." This project, which began July 9, will last for one month and will be carried out in collaboration with the Queen Alia Fund, General Federation of Jordanian Women, and Arab Youth Forum.

The project aims at increasing public awareness about population issues and their interlinkages with development, natural resources and environment, with particular emphasis on family planning, safe motherhood and youth related issues; targeting mainly women of reproductive age and youth at community level.

Project activities will cover seven major governorates throughout Jordan, and it will include lectures, meetings, free medical services, distribution of child milk for the most needy children, distribution of printed materials on family planning and safe motherhood, awarding nine sewing machines for the most active women's associations.



Restoration of the Zaid Ibn Haritha tomb is to begin soon

## Ministry prepares to restore Jordan's shrines, mosques

KARAK (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is taking practical steps towards the restoration and renovation of shrines in Jordan that are at the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad. The steps are in line with royal directives. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi made the announcement here during his inspection tour of shrines within the Karak and the Jordan valley regions where he made a study of the preparatory work and the designs involved in the project.

Last month, His Majesty King Hussein announced that he was making a personal donation to finance the restoration of the shrines in the Kingdom, noting that work would first start on two of the tombs in Jordan valley and a grand mosque in Irbid.

In a message to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on June 9, the King said he would follow up the restoration of not only these sacred tombs but various mosques on the burial places of the companions of the Prophet in the north central and southern regions of Jordan.

The King said he was contributing JD 50,000 help restore the tomb and shrine of Jaafar Ben Abi Taleb one of the companions buried near Karak in the south and more funds to restore the

prophet Shneib and Prophet Yashaa shrines in the Balqa region in central Jordan. The money will also go towards the grand mosque of Irbid in the North.

The minister examined the designs and discussed with officials all matters related to the restoration work.

Sheikh Tamimi said that the Ministry of Awqaf was doing its best to implement the royal directives and is keeping the door open for any contributions from the public. Among those companions of the Prophet buried in Jordan are Sharhabil Ben Hasneh, Abu Obaida Amer Ibn Al Jarrah, Maath Ben Jabal, Zeid Ibn Haritha, Amer Ibn Abi Waqqas and Abdullah Ibn Abi Kawaha.

The Ministry of Awqaf has already made plans for JD 3.5 million to be spent on the restoration of the shrines and for the renovation of five ancient mosques, according to ministry officials.

In his message to the Prime Minister King Hussein recalled that in 1984 he had instructed the government to set up a special committee to take charge of restoring the tombs and the shrines of the companions of the Prophet and martyrs of Islam buried in Jordan. He said that he also allocated his own annual salary for this project.

The companions of the Prophet had led the Islamic armies against the Byzantine forces in the middle East region in the course of the Islamic fight against the foreign domination of the region.

## Agricultural Ministry to assist farmers recovering from floods

AMMAN (J.T.) — Starting Saturday, farmers and produce growers in the Jerash region, north of Amman can apply for assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture to offset losses from last month's freak rain storms.

Agriculture Minister Faysal Khasawneh announced Friday that the ministry would also rebuild retaining walls and stone fences destroyed by floods during the heavy storm.

Although it is normal for Jordan to receive some rain in June, the intensity of June's downpour was unexpected and unusual. The rain caused flooding in the northern region, primarily in Jerash and Irbid, according to officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and the meteorological department.

Dr. Khasawneh said that part of the assistance could come from the funds financing Zarqa River Basin Project in the Jerash area.

The Zarqa River Basin Project aims at helping farmers protect soil against erosion, to increase food production and to reduce the amount of silt and residues being carried away by the streams and floods to the King Talal Dam. The project is partly financed by the German government.

The minister asked that farmers produce evidence and documents indicating the location of their farmlands for the assistance. But he made it clear that the ministry will only cover damage to farmland not to homes, cars and other property.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Friday recalled that the several hour torrential rains of June 17 damaged crops and killed sheep and livestock. It was reported earlier that the minister was also trying to overcome problems of a ban imposed by the Lebanese authorities on the entry of Jordanian trucks laden with agricultural crops.

A report in Sawt Al Shaab Daily quoted the minister as saying that 50 trucks were held at the Lebanese border with Syria because of a Lebanese government decision last month to halt the importation of vegetables from Jordan. The decision was taken because of the abundance of crops grown in Lebanon this year.

Dr. Khasawneh said he was following up the matter with the Lebanese authorities and has delegated Salem Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO)



Faysal Khasawneh

to Lebanon, to find a speedy solution to the problem.

According to the daily newspaper, Lebanon only imports agricultural products from Jordan, particularly in winter, and that the trucks were mainly filled with melons.

## Travellers still stranded at bridge, Israel further reduces crossings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ordeal of travellers to the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip continues, with the Israeli authorities allowing no more than 500 people — down from the original 2,500 agreed on figure — to cross Jordan River daily.

The director of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry made his second trip to inspect the Bridge Thursday and urged international organisations and the United Nations to aid stranded Palestinians.

Mr. Adel Irshaid met Jordanian officials and Palestinians waiting in the long queues at the bridge to learn about the situation.

He noted in a statement later that a great number of those delayed at the Bridge had come

from the Gulf states to spend a limited holiday with relatives on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In the past few weeks, the Israelis reduced the number of those crossing from 2,500 to 1,700 a day, and now only a 500 are allowed to cross the bridge, said Mr. Irshaid.

The Jordanian authorities had earlier introduced a system of registering those wishing to cross, but the process was complicated with the return from Mecca of 7,000 Muslim pilgrims also queuing to travel home, forcing the local authorities to reschedule the programme and delay the return of those who had registered to travel to the occupied lands.

Mr. Irshaid said that his department was aware of the hardship the delay was causing to the majority of people but can do nothing to increase the daily number of passengers allowed to cross the river.

He said that the King Hussein Bridge is the only way to cross to the West Bank now that the Israelis have assigned the Prince Mohammad Bridge, further North in the Jordan valley region, for trucks carrying agricultural products from the occupied Arab land to sell in Jordan and abroad.

According to Jordanian officials, priority in crossing is given to the old and the sick and also to Palestinians holding permits from the Israeli authorities that are about to expire.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mohammad Al Bakadawi at Alta Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Nassirallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### LECTURE

★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Ghassan Kanafani's Political Thought" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

### FILM

★ French film entitled "Therese" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan and China to set up national library in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the Peoples Republic of China Thursday signed an agreement to set up a national library in Amman. According to a report in the Arabic Daily Sawt Al Shaab on Friday. Under the agreement, signed by Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and the Chinese ambassador to Jordan, China will finance the \$6 million project as part of an overall \$10 million interest free loan. The remaining four million will be used to finance the purchase of Chinese goods for the Civil Servants Consumer Corporation.

### Jordan and Greece sign cultural and scientific agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Greece Thursday signed a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement for 1992 to 1994. Under the agreement, which covers the fields of education, libraries, culture, antiquities, information, youth, sport and social, development, both countries

will exchange teaching staff, scholars and documents on education systems. The two countries will also exchange experts in library and archive fields, as well as books, periodicals and reference books. The two sides stressed the importance of developing cooperation between the official news agencies, through the exchange of media reports, news, radio and television programmes and the exchange of visits by journalists from both countries. The agreement calls for enhancing cooperation between the antiquities departments

### Delegates from British universities briefed on ARA

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing several British universities currently visiting Jordan at the invitation of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) visited Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) on Thursday. The delegation was received by the Authority Director General Bassam Qanish who briefed the members on the authority's duties and achievements. The delegation also visited the Jordanian Ports Corporation in Aqaba city and was briefed on the corporation's duties.

## JEA enrolls graduates in training centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has enrolled 50 engineers and technicians recently graduated from the Amman Engineering college, in a training programme at the JEA training centre. The engineers and technicians will receive training on maintenance of electrical grids in preparations for involving them in the rural electrification project, to be carried out at a cost of JD 23 million. Under the project 306 villages in the rural areas will be connected with the electric power. The engineers will receive JD 100 a month during the first year of training, and JD 170 during the third year, while technicians will receive JD 65 a month during the first year and JD 90 during the third year.

In another development the JEA has won a contract to study the electricity tariffs in Yemen. An agreement is to be signed soon by JEA and Yemeni Electricity Corporation officials.

Jordan Times  
Tel: 667171

# FUTURE

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P.O. Box 10000 Amman 11111



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Pressures of Labour

THE ARAB parties to peace negotiations on the Arab-Israeli conflict will undoubtedly come under increasing pressure to reciprocate the declared intentions of the new Labour government in Israel under the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin. Many ideas have been floating to give expression to this proposition ranging from an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel to toning down the Palestinian and Syrian insistence on total withdrawal from their territories on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Against this backdrop, the Arab side needs to proceed with caution in order to gauge accurately the real intentions of Rabin on the settlement issue and see for themselves how Rabin's partners from the far right will effect the final posture of the impending new government. Not unlike other previous Israeli leaders, the new prime minister of Israel suffers from the age-old symptoms of shifting positions that have afflicted Israeli politics ever since its creation, and where he and his coalition government will stand on the various features of the peace formula will remain an open issue. There are so many variables in the process of forming the new government that precludes a precipitous judgement by the Arab side. Even though Rabin has clearly stated prior to the election of his party as the dominant group in the Knesset that the three fundamental positions that will determine his government's policies (namely no to return to the pre-1967 borders, no to the establishment of a Palestinian state, and yes to an early self-rule for the Palestinians under occupation). There is sufficient flux in the new Israeli stance on the peace process to make one take a deep breath before reacting to any call for an Arab reciprocal posture.

The wait and see policy that the Arab negotiating parties should adopt need not prevent them from going ahead with their plans to streamline their positions in anticipation of the next round of peace parleys in Rome. Now that a consensus is developing in favour of having longer stretches of talks than has been the case so far the Arab delegations stand to profit from a pragmatic negotiating strategy based on real developments in the Israeli camp. Reversing the order of business for the peace talks by making the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations paramount instead of the traditional outlook of incumbent Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that sought to proceed first with the resolution of the Israeli-Arab states conflicts may provide new windows of opportunities for the next chapter in the peace contacts. But this reversal of perspective may also invite new problems. The fact of the matter is that both negotiating positions by Israel aim to divide the Arab governments from the Palestinian delegations. Whether by proceeding first with Palestinians or with the Arab countries, too much emphasis on this point is bound to cause additional divisions among the Arab ranks, something that Israel under any leadership had always cherished and promoted. This aspect therefore deserves the full attention and concern of the Arab countries. It is just possible that the Arab side would like to call the shots on this particular issue instead of leaving the matter totally in the hands of Israel irrespective of which government is in power. The wisest course to take in this context is to continue to have parallel negotiations without one or the other dominating the priority order of the peace exercise. All such subjects call for additional examination by the Arab delegations to the Rome peace talks in advance of convening them late in the summer. This precious time can be invested to iron out any Arab differences over the new Israeli tactics and determine to what extent they deserve to be dealt with.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT WAS because the domestic front inside the occupied Arab territories was firmly united that the intifada has so far achieved so many successes, but now, as the Palestinians turn against one another, the uprising is facing real danger, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper referred to the fratricide going on between Fatah groups and Hamas in Gaza and said that the fighting between the two sides is only serving the Israeli enemy that has sought so hard to draw a wedge among the freedom fighters without any success so far. The current split within the ranks of the Palestinians involved in the same fight for liberation is bound to open the way for the Israelis to liquidate the uprising because infighting can only weaken the internal front and frustrate the masses, said the daily. The Palestinian weapons, the paper said, should be turned towards one direction, Israel and its forces, which continue to practice repression against the Palestinians without any discrimination. The paper urged Fatah and Hamas to opt for negotiation instead of confrontation, noting that national unity is required now more than at any moment in the past in the face of the common threats and vis-a-vis Israel's intransigent position with regard to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

AGAINST THE expectations of many people, the extraordinary session of the Lower House of Parliament has succeeded in a relatively short time in passing the law on political parties which has now moved to the Upper House for approval, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Fahd Al Feneh, said that before the approval of the draft law many people blamed the government or the deputies for the delay in the endorsement of this important bill which is bound to enhance the process of democracy in Jordan. The writer said that after the endorsement of the national Charter by the national congress in Jordan, it was natural to see a national consensus among the opposition and supporters of the government on the basic measures, like political pluralism, to boost the democratic action which is sought by all. Although some of the deputies strongly opposed the emergence of political parties and refrained from supporting the law, the majority saw that the time had come for the Jordanian people to exercise democracy in the full sense of the word, the writer said.

# Israel's foreign policy — friends and foes alike should expect a shift after Labour

David Makovsky of the Jerusalem Post looks at Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin's intentions to coordinate Israel's policy positions with the U.S. (in the article on the left) and at the possible shift in the direction of negotiations with Syria.

## Rabin desires joint map out of peace talks with the U.S.

Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin wants to coordinate policy positions on autonomy with the U.S. and obtain substantive assurances on security-related issues before peace talks resume, according to Israeli officials and informed sources.

Mr. Rabin's desire to jointly map out the peace talks with the U.S. provides a strategic rationale for his expected visit to the U.S. early next month.

Israeli officials believe Mr. Rabin, who has called for an autonomy agreement within a year, believes the actual peace negotiations are of little value unless there is a meeting of the minds between the U.S. and Israel on where the negotiations are headed.

Mr. Rabin would like to know how the U.S. envisions autonomy, and wants to allow them to sound out the Arabs on some ideas, sources say.

Some believe Mr. Rabin will also seek to better understand how the U.S. sees final status arrangements after the three-to-five-year autonomy phase ends. In return, Mr. Rabin would want to know exactly what Israel will get from the U.S. for concessions that would affect Israeli security, sources say.

Among the ideas being discussed are a multi-year commitment by the U.S. to \$1.8 billion in annual military aid, and a more concrete U.S. definition of how it expects to maintain Israel's "qualitative edge."

Israel says that this term has become virtually meaningless, with the U.S. selling the same level of sophisticated weaponry to Arab states that it provides Israel. The assurances may also include reaffirmation of past U.S. commitments to Israeli security.

On a non-security level, the U.S. is widely believed to be willing to be forthcoming on loan guarantees in return for a Rabin commitment to dramatically reduce settlements.

Secretary of State James Baker was able to bring about the opening of the Madrid peace confer-

ence last fall by working out a string of quiet pro-quo with Israelis and Arabs to grease the wheels of diplomacy. Informed observers believe this is likely to be the pattern for the future as well.

It should be recalled that the last accord Mr. Rabin worked out with the U.S. was the Sinai disengagement agreement in 1975, which included an annex that experts say constituted "the terms of a de facto U.S.-Israel alliance."

In private conversations, Mr. Rabin has scoffed at the Likud government's refusal to coordinate positions with the U.S. While the Likud has said that it does not want to involve the U.S., fearing it detracts from face-to-face talks with the Arabs, others say that the real reason is that the Likud believed the differences between the U.S. and Israel were too wide to be bridgeable.

"I don't think this government will be as righteous about not allowing the U.S. to involve itself in the peace process," an Israeli official said.

However, Israel should not raise its expectations too high. The U.S. will be constrained in aligning its positions with Israel because it has stated that it wants to be an "honest broker" in the peace process. That means not being perceived as being in either side's corner, an informed source said.

"Yes, there should be policy coordination this time between the U.S. and this Israeli government," the source said. "Rabin is genuine about negotiations. However, there will be tough issues where agreement may not be found. If there is a reservoir of good will between both sides, it should help getting over the differences later on in the negotiations."

Senior Bush administration officials reportedly say Labour's victory will put new pressure on the Palestinians to compromise, and they should not rely on the U.S. to pressure Israel.

However, what remains to be seen is if the Palestinians are unified enough internally to make tough decisions, or whether they remain wrecked by factionalism.

The first step towards closer U.S.-Israeli ties will take place this month when several senior U.S. officials are planning to arrive in Israel, to establish a rapport with the new Rabin team and to also deal with issues tied to the peace process and the U.S. visit.

It may be noted that Mr. Rabin has signalled that he intends to concentrate control of the bilateral peace talks in the prime minister's office, and not the Foreign Ministry, to demonstrate his personal commitment to this issue.

According to Israeli officials, Mr. Baker's top aide Dennis Ross and Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Edward Djerejian will hold substantive talks.

White House Mideast affairs director Richard Haass will come to plan logistics for Mr. Rabin's meeting with President Bush. The site of the meeting will be Camp David or Kennebunkport, Maine, both relaxed environments which would allow the two to establish personal rapport.

Israeli officials and informed sources do not dismiss the possibility that Mr. Baker may also make a trip to the Middle East to follow up the Bush-Rabin meeting and give new energy to the peace process.

Peace talks, which adjourned in early May, are likely to be restarted in September. Upon adjournment, Arabs and Israelis agreed that the negotiations would be reconvened in Rome.

There has been speculation that the U.S. would like to see Israelis and Palestinians initial a "framework" on Palestinian autonomy before the U.S. elections in November, with details to be completed later. Even a tentative accord would enable Mr. Bush to present American voters with the diplomatic fruits of the Gulf war.

## Ben-Aharon: More military-to-military interim agreements with Syria needed

A totally new diplomatic direction is needed for peace talks with Syria, and future negotiations should now focus on more military-to-military interim agreements, Yossi Ben-Aharon, chief Israeli negotiator of the outgoing Shamir government, told The Jerusalem Post in an interview.

Until now, five rounds of bilateral peace negotiations have focused almost exclusively and without any success upon a final deal, with Israel demanding Syrian consent to a peace treaty and Damascus calling for total Israeli evacuation of the Golan Heights.

Mr. Ben-Aharon, who is also the outgoing director-general of the prime minister's office, admits that interim measures have not seriously been raised with the Syrians under his leadership.

"We do not have to put all our attention in attaining a total peace treaty that brings all good things," said Mr. Ben-Aharon, in reversal of policy. "We can move ahead with Syria, step by step. We have to look for those things that they and us can see as an achievement. There has to be balance."

"For example, Syria has a problem of security. It sees itself as being threatened. There can be all sorts of confidence-building measures that start off as being purely military, which prepare the groundwork for other things."

"There is gradualism in our approach in dealing with the Palestinians, so perhaps there is room to talk about this in the Syrian sector as well," said Mr. Ben-Aharon, who wondered if this could be the approach in dealing with Lebanon, as well.

Mr. Ben-Aharon said he thought it was a mistake to focus talks solely on the Palestinian issue, and that progress should be made on the Syrian issue as well. "Otherwise, the Syrians will feel they have been left high and dry," he said.

Mr. Rabin said that he thinks peace talks should concentrate on the Palestinians, but sources cite Bush administration officials who object to this approach as being unwelcome, and that the Syrians could even work to sabotage any sort of a separate Israeli-Palestinian arrangement.

"We do not have to put all our attention in attaining a total peace treaty that brings all good things. We can move ahead with Syria, step by step. We have to look for those things that they and us can see as an achievement. There has to be balance."

Mr. Ben-Aharon said such military-to-military agreements could conceivably include mutual force reductions not just on the Golan Heights but could even include forces arrayed within the two countries.

Mr. Ben-Aharon conceded that another idea would be to put ceilings on the types of weaponry that both sides possess, and that Israel could "conceivably" agree to mutual verification.

"We can deepen what we began in the Syria disengagement accord in 1974," he said. "Not just deepen (the '74 accord) on both sides of the geographic border, but beyond this. I am not

getting into details, but thinking strategically. In general, this would enable them to divert funds from military to economic use."

The 1974 accord included not just the reduction of forces, but also involved Israel giving back territory. Mr. Ben-Aharon, however, refused to relate to the territorial issue.

When asked whether he would feel comfortable working for Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin, who has said that he accepts the idea of territorial compromise on the Golan Heights, Mr. Ben-Aharon said he would not object to continuing as a negotiator for the new government since he is a career diplomat.

In response to his remarks yesterday, Israeli officials critical of Mr. Ben-Aharon say that he is only sounding moderate because he wants to continue on as a negotiator in the future Rabin government or wants another important assignment. "When he headed the negotiations, he showed 'no give,'" one official said. "It is hard to believe that he is now sounding so flexible."

Mr. Ben-Aharon explained that he did not pursue the idea of interim steps because he thought it was preferable to first push the case for Syrian acceptance of Israeli legitimacy, and that Israel should not give up that basic demand.

Mr. Ben-Aharon insisted that his highly vocal and tight identification with the policy views of outgoing Prime Minister Shamir should not disqualify him from continuing on as a Syrian negotiator in a Rabin government.

While sounding calm about the idea of being replaced as director-general of the prime minister's office, he voiced hope that the new government does not adopt a policy of mass purges lower than the director-general level. "A 'heads will rule' (policy) will be seen as being vindictive," he said.

### THE WEEK IN PRINT

## 'Political parties should act as a tool for reform and improvement in all walks of life'

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The endorsement by Parliament of the political parties law, the infighting among the various Palestinian factions, Yitzhak Rabin's expected moves in the Middle East process and a host of domestic issues were given prominence by the Jordanian press over the past week.

Now that Parliament has approved of the political parties law, the future political groups should behave in such a manner as to convince each citizen that it is serving national causes and offering service to the local communities, said a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab.

Said Abu Dayeh cautioned political parties against carrying out a mere campaign of slogans and no real action noting that the strength of a party lies in its accomplishments.

Tareq Masarweh, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, welcomed the Parliament's decision on the political parties and thanked the government for its cooperation with Parliament. Democracy, he said, is not victory and defeat, it is rather agreement and cooperation.

His colleague in Al Ra'i echoed the view but noted that a political party should act as a tool for reform and improvement in all walks of life. What Jordanians want is not a return to traditional forms of political action, but a practical system of political action catering to the domestic issues and dealing with the political affairs on the domestic, regional and international levels, said the writer.

Regardless of who voted for or against the political parties law the result is a source of pride and a great achievement,

said Mohammad Kharroub, a writer in Al Ra'i daily. He said that the emerging parties ought now to embark on a programme that would prove by word and deed that Jordan is moving fast towards the fulfilment of a democratic life.

Al Dustour turned its attention to the ongoing pressure exerted by the U.S.-Zionist circles on Jordan and said that nothing can coerce Jordan into falling victim to such intimidation. This mounting pressure is a form of interference in Jordan's internal affairs, which can not be accepted, and the Kingdom can by no means succumb to pressure or blackmail, the daily stressed.

Under the title "No to American pressure" columnist Tareq Masarweh said Washington wants to restrict Iraq's trade to Turkey, whose trucks flow through the Iraqi-Turkish borders day and night. Washington wants to offer Turkey some compensation for the \$500 million annual income from the Iraqi oil pipeline that used to run through in Turkish territory and therefore it is exerting pressure on Jordan to prevent it from sending food supplies to Iraq and accusing the Kingdom of violating the sanctions, charged the writer.

He said Jordan can only reject hegemony and intimidation at a time when it is self-confident that its own credibility speaks louder than the U.S. threats.

His colleague in Al Ra'i, Sultan Al Hattab, accused Arab countries, which he did not name, to be instigating Washington to exert pressure on the Kingdom. The writer

said that U.S. congressmen supporting the Zionists have been bribed by Arab states to prevent Jordan from obtaining U.S. aid and to exert pressure on Amman to stop sending food supplies to Iraq.

The Americans can by no means force Jordan to succumb to a demand for stationing U.N. inspectors on Jordanian territory to please these Arab states, said the writer.

The latest act in the ongoing theatrical campaign against Jordan came in the form of allegations that Jordan was behind a recent coup attempt in Baghdad, said Taher Al Udwan in Al Dustour. Whoever is behind such fabricated news, said the writer, is seeking to mar Jordan's credibility and deal a blow to current attempts to heal rifts among Arabs. Furthermore, the fabricated news aims at distorting Jordan's national stand and casting doubts on its democracy which is now shaking the seats of many regimes, said the writer.

Salameh Ekour was one of the Jordanian columnists to decry the continued infighting among the various Palestinian factions. The columnist, who writes for Sawt Al Shaab, said: "We watch with deep dismay the Fatah-Hamas conflict at a time when the ranks of freedom fighters should be united. There is no justification at all for this fratricidal war that is only strengthening Israel's hand."

Under the heading: "Stop the bleeding", Hamadeh Farameh said in Al Dustour that through divisions and conflicts Israel is consolidating its

hold over the Arab land and its holy shrines. The writer said that Fatah which has led the Palestinian resistance movement for more than a quarter of century, should take steps and stop the massacre and President Arafat ought to step in and halt the fratricide.

Al Ra'i daily urged the Palestinians to aim their guns only at the Israeli troops and to find means for uniting their ranks. The paper warned the Palestinians factions against going too far and sacrificing the intifada for their own personal, selfish purposes.

In only two days more than 50 Palestinians were wounded not by the Israelis but by other Palestinians, said Mahmood Rimawi in Al Ra'i. No faction should be at solved for its behaviour and all Palestinians are responsible for ending the bloodshed, he demanded.

Turning to the prospects of peace in the wake of the Labour Party's victory in the Israeli elections, Rimawi said that the world community should not offer Mr. Rabin and his government any credibility in advance and should wait to see if the man lives up to his words and promises of making peace with the Arabs.

The writer said that the important thing here is whether Mr. Rabin is willing to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and exchange land for peace.

His views are echoed by Fahd Al Feneh in Al Ra'i daily. He said that so far Labour has proved to be a carbon copy of the Likud Party in terms of dealing with the Palestinian question and peace

with the Arabs. It is feared now that Mr. Rabin's nice words to the world might tempt the Americans to offer him the long-awaited loan guarantees, warned the writer. Nothing short of a full peace, based on U.N. resolutions can appease the Palestinians and the other Arab States, stressed the writer.

Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i, warned that Mr. Rabin's call for direct dealing with the Palestinians alone was drawing a wedge among the Arab parties. The writer drew attention to the conflict going on between the Palestinian factions noting that it came about as a result of Mr. Rabin's moves since some of these factions are more moderate than others with regards to the peace process.

George Haddad, a columnist in Al Dustour sounded the alarm against Mr. Rabin's government in a more resounding manner by saying that the Labour government has a number of objectives to fulfil: stopping the deteriorating socio-economic conditions among the Jews, stifling the intifada by instigating one Palestinian faction against the other and ensuring U.S. loan guarantees for the settlements.

Two columnists in Al Dustour, Fakhri Saleh and Mohammad Kawash, present an almost identical analysis of the Rabin policies. Both say that Mr. Rabin is more evil than his predecessor and is trying to achieve for the Zionists what the Likud failed to attain. By talking to the Palestinians alone, Mr. Rabin hopes to draw a wedge be-

tween the Arab parties, to win Washington's blessing and eventually obtain American funds, and, above all, he does not accept the idea of a Palestinian state or Palestinian rights, they said.

The current U.N. inspection teams' action in Baghdad and their attempt to enter a government building came under attack by Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab. The writer said that the Security Council has no right to encroach upon the sovereignty of any country and, above all, should not violate the United Nations Charter.

Ekour said that as long as the council is taking orders from Washington, there can be no hope of trusting any U.N. move.

Another breach of international norms and violation of the Iraqi sovereignty is represented by a visit to northern Iraq by the first lady of France, who escaped a car-bomb attack last week, said Abdul Rahim Omar in Al Ra'i.

The writer said that the irresponsible policies of Paris caused the loss of life of innocent civilians and further marred Arab-France relations. Dr. Saad Abu Dayeh wrote in Sawt Al Shaab criticising the Parliament deputies for issuing promises to deal with corruption, unemployment and poverty, among many ills in Jordan, but did nothing in this regard. Some of the deputies, who have had the chance to serve in the executive authority, and become ministers, joined the very institutions and perhaps the very same persons who they had accused of corruption, said the writer.

## Mediation

(Continued from page 1)

brothers in the occupied territories and we call on them to unite their ranks to face the threats of the Zionist enemy," Mr. Ghosheh told the AP.

Mr. Ghosheh blamed the violence on an attempt by the PLO leadership to weaken the Hamas movement, since the Middle East peace process was launched in Madrid last October.

Tensions have been rising in Gaza since about two weeks ago, when Hamas activists distributed several hundred letters to the homes of PLO activists.

The letters, according to Palestinians who received them, charged that Hamas was planning to assassinate PLO leaders one by one. PLO activists responded by threatening Hamas leaders.

The dispute moved to the streets last Thursday, when members of a PLO enforcement squad confronted a family in the town of Beni Sukaina and demanded to speak with a son affiliated with Hamas. When the family responded with stones, they opened fire, wounding five.

On Monday and Tuesday, there were major stone-throwing clashes between supporters of the two sides in several towns and refugee camps. Dozens on both sides were hurt.

## Rabin ready

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Shamir, meanwhile, on Friday denied statements attributed to him that he would have dragged out autonomy talks with the Palestinians for 10 years while quadrupling the number of Jewish settlers in the occupied territories to half a million.

"Complete nonsense," Mr. Shamir said of the remarks published last month as part of a newspaper interview.

"Nobody considered this mainly because of the reason that I see no contradiction, and never did, between establishing autonomy and Jewish settlements in... the West Bank and Gaza," Mr. Shamir told Israeli Radio on Friday.

But the outgoing prime minister did not deny making the remarks attributed to him by the newspaper Maariv.

Mr. Shamir, due to leave office next week, broke a two-week silence on an interview printed by the Israeli newspaper on June 26, three days after he lost the election to Mr. Rabin.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Shamir as saying: "I would have carried out autonomy talks for 10 years and meanwhile we would have reached half a million people in (the West Bank)."

The outgoing government failed in a last-ditch effort to push through housing for Jews in Arab East Jerusalem, city officials said on Friday.

They said a state planning committee on Thursday indefinitely delayed a hearing on 200 apartments planned for the Wadi Joz neighbourhood.

"Wisdom prevailed," said the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek, who opposes settling Jews in densely populated Arab areas of East Jerusalem.

City officials this week said Mr. Shamir's government was trying to push through the housing before handing over power to Mr. Rabin. Critics view the settlement plans as a provocation.

On Tuesday the district planning commission rejected a request by Mr. Kollek to allow the city to use a Wadi Joz building for a school for handicapped Arab children, paving the way for a Jewish housing project there.

But the joint state-municipality committee, which has final say on the property, put off considering the proposal on Thursday, citing the housing ministry's failure to notify it of its plan 14 days in advance as required by law.

It also narrowly defeated a plan by private Jewish investors — apparently affiliated to Jewish settlement groups — for 200 apartments in Ras Al Aunged neighbourhood.

## Iraq-U.N. row

(Continued from page 1)

for a sixth day Friday.

The team was scheduled to end its three-week trip to Iraq on Saturday. It was not clear if the team's departure would be delayed because of the standoff.

Tin Trevan, a spokesman for U.N. special commission, said in New York on Thursday that his boss, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, might resort to the Security Council once more.

The team in Baghdad includes American, British, French and Russian weapons experts. They have been parked in air-conditioned jeeps outside the ministry for six days as temperatures in Baghdad hovered around 50 degrees Celsius.

The main road leading to the ministry was blocked by Iraqi security forces after hundreds of women pelted the U.N. cars with fruit.

The Iraqi News Agency said that citizens marched through the streets of Baghdad on Thursday to denounce "provocative acts of the U.N. inspection team."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali issued a statement saying he was "deeply concerned at the series of incidents of recent days affecting the safety of U.N. personnel."

Iraq Thursday ridiculed U.S. reports of an assassination attempt against Saddam Hussein as "sick imagination" by Washington and pledged the Iraqi leader would remain a thorn in the side of his enemies.

"It is a serious case of fabrication, creating a new story every other day," an official spokesman said in a statement.

"The criminal U.S. administration will remain blindfolded in its tyranny and sick imagination."

"Saddam Hussein will remain a thorn in the side of colonialism, Zionism and their agents," the spokesman added.

The spokesman said the U.S. administration had been conducting several anti-Saddam "myths" in the past week.

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## Jordanians dominate tae kwon do championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Orthodox Club International Open tae kwon do championship ended Friday after three days of competition in which Jordanian athletes dominated the scene and reaped a good number of gold and silver medals.

The championship, organised by the Orthodox Club, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was praised by officials and participants as well organised and proved to be a good chance for young players to gain experience since over 200 players from Singapore, Taiwan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and Jordan participated.

Friday's closing ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, who distributed awards and medals to winning teams and players.

In the final team standings Jordan occupied the first place, followed in the second place by Taipei, Yemen in the third place and Singapore came fourth. The Jordanian teams won 29 gold medals out of a total of 38.

On Thursday, the second day of competition, Jordanian players won a total of 12 gold and silver medals in four weight categories in both boys and girls competitions. Gold medal winners on Thursday were Ali Al Omari (Jordan), Cheng Shan Ha (Taiwan), Abdul Karim Asfour (Jordan), Khaled Nahar (Jordan), Sara Hatouqah (Jordan), Manal Subhi (Jordan), Hong Sojo (Taiwan), Majida Abdul Jawad (Jordan).

Live television coverage gave much impetus to participants and especially the organisers who hope to have the championship on a yearly basis and on a much larger scale.

### Final Team Standings

**Under 13 years (males):**  
1- Jordan  
2- Taipei  
3- Yemen

**Under 13 years (females):**  
1- Taipei  
2- Jordan A  
3- Jordan C

**13-16 years (males):**

1- Jordan A  
2- Jordan B  
3- Jordan C

**13-16 (females):**

1- Jordan A  
2- Jordan B  
3- Jordan C

### Friday's results:

**Under 13 years (males):**

**Under 20 kg:**  
1- Ibrahim Obeidat (Jordan)  
2- Imad Al Zaben (Jordan)  
3- Mohammad Al Jalalme (Jordan) and Saleh Bazian (Jordan)

**20-22 kg:**  
1- Walid Khleif (Jordan)  
2- Majid Khalil (Jordan)  
3- Murad Mahmoud (Jordan)

**22-24 kg:**

1- Fares Assaf (Jordan)  
2- Mohammad Abdul Karim (Jordan)  
3- Omar Al Snadi (Jordan) and Hakim Noor (Singapore)

**35-40 kg:**

1- Hani Al Omari (Jordan)  
2- Chang Woo Lang (Taipei)  
3- Rakan Al Haj Ali (Syria)

**40-45 kg:**

1- Tareq Ali (Yemen)  
2- Ajjaj Saleh (Yemen)  
3- Shadi Kreishan (Jordan) and Abdul Rahim Mahmoud (Jordan)

**Above 45 kg:**

1- Mahmoud Shaaban  
2- Nizar Noor (Yemen)  
3- Shoo Han Wei (Taipei) and Lu'ai Mustafa (Jordan)

**13-16 years (males):**

**Under 35 kg:**  
1- Imad Hassounah (Jordan)  
2- Sameh Assaf (Jordan)  
3- Nash'at Issa (Jordan) and Ayman Khalil (Jordan)

**35-39 kg:**

1- Alaa Ibrahim (Jordan)  
2- Fares Al Daoud (Jordan)  
3- Bassem Edwan (Jordan) and Bert Taher (Jordan)

**39-43 kg:**

1- Yong Shee Sing (Singapore)  
2- Hisham Al Anbar (Jordan)  
3- Haitham Al Ghazawi (Jordan) and Mohammad Abu Shaikha (Jordan)

**43-47 kg:**

1- Wa'el Assaf (Jordan)  
2- Alaa Al Nimri (Jordan)  
3- Ziad Ajameh (Jordan) and Hani Al Ramahi (Jordan)

**51-55 kg:**

1- Ahmad Mustafa (Jordan)  
2- Mohammad Taher (Yemen)  
3- Mohammad Nazih (Jordan) and Mohammad Sha'rawi (Jordan)

**55-59 kg:**

1- Amer Al Assaf (Jordan)  
2- Wisam Abu Seif (Jordan)  
3- Wasif Abu Ghazaleh (Jordan) and Omar Abidi (Jordan)

**59-63 kg:**

1- Rami Yassin (Jordan)  
2- Habb Hamsideh (Jordan)  
3- Tareq Salameh (Jordan) and Ayman Suleiman (Syria)

**63-67 kg:**

1- Mustafa Ashour (Jordan)  
2- Khaldoun Ismail (Jordan)

**Above 67 kg:**

1- Shadi Abu Hassan (Jordan)  
2- Bilal Bato (Jordan)  
3- Usama Arandas (Jordan) and Hamdi Al Farouqi (Jordan)

**Under 13 years females:**

**Under 20 kg:**  
1- Noor Odeh (Jordan)

**20-22 kg:**

1- Hadia Khalili (Jordan)

**22-24 kg:**

1- Hong Yahan (Taipei)  
2- Suad Al Ayyoubi (Jordan)  
3- Fares Abbas (Jordan)

**35-40 kg:**

1- Sulee Chen (Taipei)  
2- Lama Munir (Jordan)  
3- Suri Chen (Taipei) and Sura Khasawneh (Jordan)

**40-45 kg:**

1- Lu Chen (Taipei)  
2- Noora Ibrahim (Jordan)

**Above 45 kg:**

1- Koo Chen Lee (Taipei)  
2- Janset Dakghan (Jordan)  
3- Hassan Al Tabari (Jordan) and Wahba Ajloui (Jordan)

**13-16 years (females):**

**35-39 kg:**  
1- Shoo Hai Yang (Taipei)

**39-43 kg:**

1- Lina Hakez (Jordan)  
2- Dalia Kamal (Jordan)  
3- Sing Lee Joe (Singapore)

**43-47 kg:**

1- Rasha Bader (Jordan)  
2- Lima Haddad (Jordan)  
3- Ghadeer Abul Tagheb (Jordan)

**47-51 kg:**

1- Ruba Al Talhoumi (Jordan)  
2- Ruba Al Husheimi (Jordan)

**51-55 kg:**

1- Nancy Humeidi (Jordan)  
2- Yara Al Massi (Jordan)  
3- Tamara Al Anbar (Jordan)

**55-59 kg:**

1- Badia Haddadin (Jordan)

**59-63 kg:**

1- Uraib Al Omari (Jordan)

**Above 67 kg:**

1- Fatima Al Sayyad (Jordan)

### Winter Olympics lost \$57 m

PARIS (AP) — The Winter Olympics in Albertville lost 285 million francs (\$57 million), but the French government will cover three-quarters of it, the two co-presidents of the organising committee said Thursday. The deficit was 6.6 per cent of the budget of COJO, as the committee is known. Co-Presidents Michel Barnier and Jean-Claude Killy said, "This figure conforms to the risk we calculated in December 1991," Mr. Barnier told a final meeting in Paris of the committee, which will be officially disbanded next Wednesday.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMAR HIRSCH  
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

**Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
#72 VEQJ10952 Q83 ♠AJ  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
? What do you bid now?

**Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
#Void VQ87 QK653 Q98742  
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

**Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
#92 V7 Q9J9752 ♠A1063  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

**Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
#QJ7 V83 Q1092 ♠AK965  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass ? What do you bid now?

**Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
#AK893 VAK4 AQJ ♠63  
What is your opening bid?

**Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
#K5 VQJ2 QAK8762 ♠K3  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

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### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 10, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** It may seem impossible now to get at the truth of a difficult situation and it may take sometime for related problems to unfold and be crystal clear again. It will all depend upon your approach.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) It is necessary that you do not allow yourself to get involved in any arguments or discussions at home so turn the other cheek, tonight don't go after personal aims.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Much activity in communication with others necessitates that you better organise your time so you don't deal in all directions at the same time.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You are tempted to spend far more than you can afford today so be sure to keep your purse well zipped and tonight have patience in gaining an aim.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you want the most can be had if you do schedule your time more wisely as well as put a check on your temper and energies.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Think about what you can best do to accept a private worry and put your attention or organising better a course to be more successful in the future.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Think about how you can gain

a cherished longing without all the foreboding you wish to put into gaining this and tonight attend to onerous obligations.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You are upset about an outside condition but you can get it done in the best manner by maintaining self-control and being impersonal an objective.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Consider well the various promises you have made and don't try to work any angles to get out of attending to them conscientiously.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You would be wise to economise on pleasures tonight after a day doing those things which will enhance your business acumen and reputation.

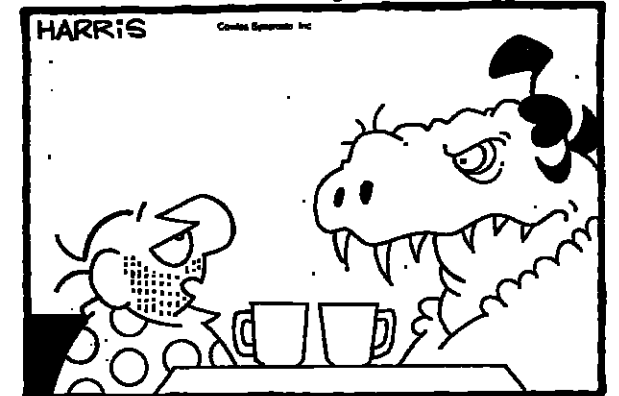
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) An argument with a partner could easily become an estrangement so sidestep it and in the evening you find a condition at home requiring good judgment.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Put your vitality to good use at the activities you want to do in a perfect manner at this time, then later avoid a dispute with a person of different views to yours.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) A day when you want to have a good time but don't go over-board but use common sense and you can have a wonderful time avoid heavy outlet of cash tonight.

### THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Harriet, is this going to be one of your cranky days?"

### JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ADEHA  
TIFUR  
KILLEY  
DISMOW



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

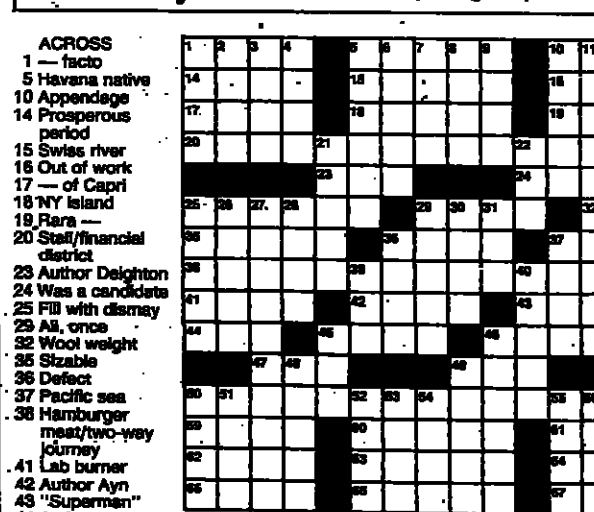
Answer here: JUST

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGING FIFTY BLUTHE VANISH

Answer: He slept on the roof because he was fond of this—"HIGH" LIVING

### THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart



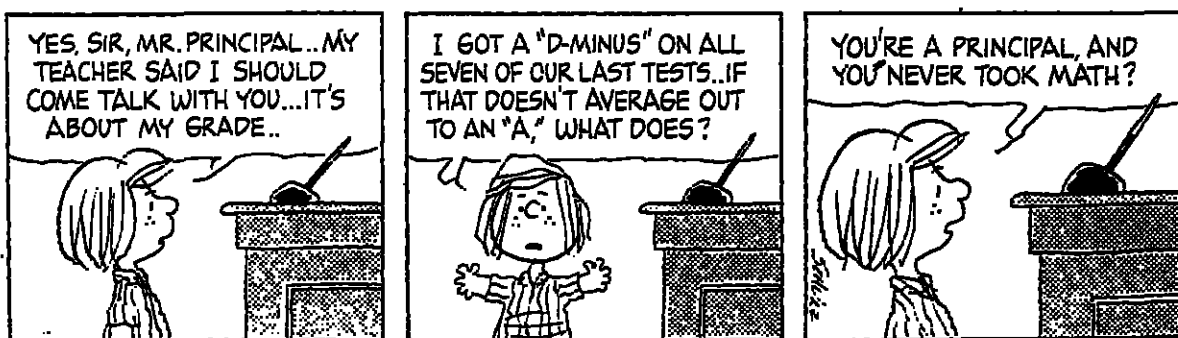
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

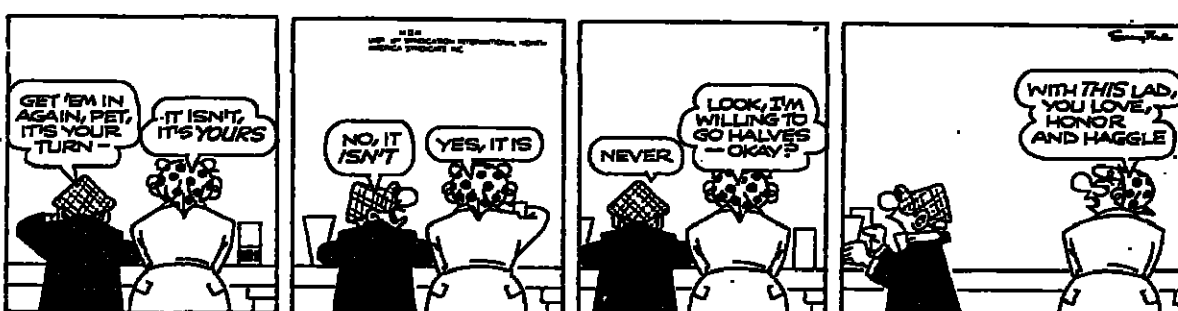
WISH ABOUT ABAD  
AMIA PERIN CORA  
SHAFI AUBURN PAINT  
MOOREBOARD FREE  
NEED MANVOLE  
DANGER ONE ONE  
ARE WAND BUBBLES  
SIRIA STRAINE MOOD  
SHARON RUTH OVA  
DIE AND ALGER  
AMERICAN RITE  
THE CONVENTION  
LARGE ORIGIN POLE  
ORION ORION POLE  
TAIN REARLY PAIR

45 Express in words  
46 Large ranch  
48 Pious  
49 Be of use  
50 Treasury  
51 Biblical preposition  
52 Chums  
53 Amo, amos  
54 Study carefully  
55 Repute  
56 Goddess of victory  
57 Cheese type  
58 Dogs

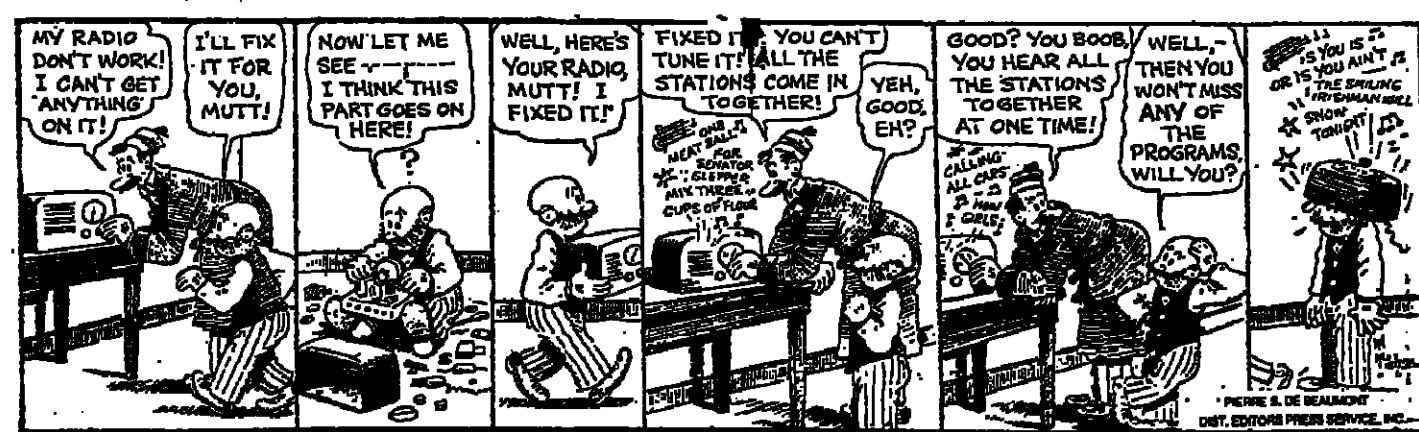
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



سوق المال

## Financial Markets

In co-operation with

Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency               | NEW YORK<br>CLOSE<br>7/7/92 | TOKYO<br>CLOSE<br>7/7/92 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sterling Pound         | 1.9277                      | 1.9285                   |
| Deutsche Mark          | 1.4497                      | 1.4475                   |
| Swiss Franc            | 1.3425                      | 1.3423                   |
| French Franc           | 5.0165                      | 5.0010**                 |
| Japanese Yen           | 124.78                      | 124.57                   |
| European Currency Unit | 1.3735                      | 1.3787**                 |

\* 100 Per Cent

\*\* European Opening 6:30 AM GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

| Currency               | 1 MONTH | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
|------------------------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| U.S. Dollar            | 5.31    | 5.37     | 5.50     | 5.68      |
| Sterling Pound         | 10.12   | 10.00    | 10.00    | 9.93      |
| Deutsche Mark          | 9.43    | 9.62     | 9.62     | 9.56      |
| Swiss Franc            | 8.81    | 8.87     | 8.87     | 8.68      |
| French Franc           | 10.00   | 9.96     | 9.93     | 9.90      |
| Japanese Yen           | 4.56    | 4.40     | 4.25     | 4.18      |
| European Currency Unit | 10.50   | 10.43    | 10.43    | 10.31     |

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Month

| Currency | USD/100 | 100/USD | 100/DM | 100/FF | 100/JPY |
|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Gold     | 347.05  | 6.60    | Silver | 5.89   | 0.99    |

\* 10 Gram

Currency

| Currency       | Bid     | Offer   |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar    | 0.667   | 0.669   |
| Sterling Pound | 1.2844  | 1.2910  |
| Deutsche Mark  | 0.4474  | 0.4496  |
| Swiss Franc    | 0.4947  | 0.4992  |
| French Franc   | 0.1328  | 0.1335  |
| Japanese Yen   | 0.5351  | 0.5376  |
| Dutch Guilder  | 0.3971  | 0.3991  |
| Swedish Krona  | 0.1236  | 0.1246  |
| Italian Lira   | 0.0592  | 0.0595  |
| Belgian Franc  | 0.02158 | 0.02169 |

\* Per 100

Other Currencies

| Currency        | Bid     | Offer   |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Librairie Dinar | 1.7500  | 1.7500  |
| Chinese Lira    | 0.03600 | 0.04100 |
| Small Riyal     | 0.1770  | 0.1790  |
| Kuwaiti Dinar   |         |         |
| Qatari Riyal    | 0.1807  | 0.1825  |
| Egyptian Pound  | 0.2080  | 0.2080  |
| Israeli Sheqel  | 1.7000  | 1.7150  |
| UAE Dirham      | 0.1807  | 0.1825  |
| Greek Drachma   | 0.3550  | 0.3550  |
| Cypriot Pound   | 1.5500  | 1.5700  |

\* Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

| Index            | 7/7/92 | Close | 8/7/92 | Close |
|------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| All-Share        | 147.93 |       | 142.58 |       |
| Banking Sector   | 104.68 |       | 104.95 |       |
| Insurance Sector | 149.59 |       | 150.19 |       |
| Industry Sector  | 194.17 |       | 195.37 |       |
| Services Sector  | 179.49 |       | 180.44 |       |

\* December 31, 1990 = 100

## Arabs urged to build pan-Arab electricity system

DAMASCUS (R) — Arabs have the potential to set up a \$44-billion pan-Arab electricity system which could save billions of dollars and ensure stable supply throughout the next century, Arab energy officials said.

Officials from Arab countries, addressing a U.N.-sponsored seminar last month on gas until the year 2000 and beyond, said a potential market for gas was the electricity sector. Gas could replace more costly fuel oil to generate electricity.

Rashad Abu Ras, an official at Jordan's energy ministry, said Arab states had more than 21 per cent of the world's total gas re-

serves, "an amount which could easily and cheaply feed electricity generation units."

The gas seminar, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCA), concluded its sessions in the Syrian capital at the end of June with a call for greater utilization of gas in the region.

The seminar was attended by officials from Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Yemen, Morocco and other countries.

Studies presented to the seminar said natural gas was found in 13 Arab countries and proven reserves amounted to 23 trillion

cubic metres, according to 1991 statistical estimates. They also showed that prospects were good for discoveries of additional gas reserves.

"In fact it is likely that in future more gas than oil will be discovered in most of the Arab and gas-producing countries," one study by the Organisation of the Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said.

Mr. Abu Ras said there was good potential for all Arab gas-producing countries to convert power plants from oil to gas. "The linkage of five regional power grids among the Arab states can lead to the eventual

consolidation of a pan-Arab electrical system," he said.

He said each of the five groups included at least one gas-producing country, enabling electricity generation to depend on gas.

He listed the five as:

— The northeastern group including Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt;

— The Saudi Arabian group covering four parts of the kingdom;

— The Yemen group which links north and south parts of the country;

— The Gulf group comprised of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates

and the eastern part of Saudi Arabia;

And the Maghreb group including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania.

Mr. Abu Ras said the unified Arab network could be connected later with Europe through Turkey in the northeast, and Spain in the west, allowing Arab countries to export gas in the form of electrical energy.

"This system will provide an efficient and reliable source of low-cost electricity. A large percentage of this power could come from natural gas which would otherwise have no market," he

said.

The amount of gas used in commercial applications by Arab countries has grown at an average annual rate of seven per cent from 70 billion cubic metres in 1980 to about 140 billion in 1990, one study prepared by OAPEC said.

But OAPEC studies show that until now only eight per cent of the natural gas produced in Arab countries is marketed abroad.

The 13 Arab countries with rich gas reserves are Saudi Arabia, the United Emirates, Algeria, Libya, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

## Brazil clinches \$44b debt deal with banks

BRASILIA (R) — Brazil, the Third World's biggest debtor, clinched a deal with commercial banks early Thursday to reduce \$44 billion of foreign debt and reschedule payments over a period of up to 30 years.

The outline accord, concluded after nearly a year of intensive negotiations, means all of Latin America's big debtors — Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela — have reached agreements with banks after the debt crisis of the 1980s.

President Fernando Collor de Mello announced the deal in a handwritten note, copies of which were circulated to reporters.

"We have reached a good understanding after nearly a year of negotiations," he said. "The reduction foreseen in the debt is 35 per cent and its profile has been improved considerably."

Politicians, businessmen and trade union leaders in Brazil welcomed the agreement, hoping it would pave the way for a flow of new loans from abroad to revive the sickly economy.

"Brazil needs to grow," union leader Luiz Antonio de Medeiros said. "The people are suffering."

The deal must still be approved individually by the scores of cre-

ditor banks as well as by the senate — which will take several months — but even opposition senators said Thursday they did not expect any major problems.

Brazil's package followed the pattern of earlier debt reduction deals signed by its Latin American neighbours, dubbed Brady deals after their architect, U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

Banks will be able their swap their Brazilian debt, which has not paid full interest since 1989, into six new types of paper.

They can choose to keep the full face value and accept lower interest rates or swallow a discount of 35 per cent in the value of their paper and get market interest rates on the remainder.

Banks willing to put up \$18.88 of new money for every \$100 they are owed will get more favourable treatment, receiving market interest rates without having to accept a discount on the face value of their paper.

The advantage for banks weary of Latin American nations which fail to pay on time or stop paying altogether is that the deal is backed by firm guarantees.

In Brazil's case, \$3.2 billion of

U.S. Treasury bonds will be placed in a special account accumulating interest. In 30 years' time, when the deal ends, they should be worth enough to guarantee payment of the debt principal.

Banks therefore only run the risk of default on interest payments.

Markets reacted cautiously to the deal, reflecting worries that political and economic turbulence in Brazil could still blow it off course.

Only slightly on the news and the country's most widely traded debt paper, the multi-year deposit facility agreement, see-sawed in New York.

Brazil's last debt renegotiation with commercial banks was concluded in June 1988. Just over a year later, it started skipping payments and the deal fell apart.

Thursday's debt agreement still depends on Brazil obtaining around \$1.6 billion in new loans from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Inter American Development Bank to help buy the bonds to guarantee the deal.

Brazil, which owes a total of \$115.6 billion, signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in January and won a \$2.1 billion standby loan to back its economic programme. The following month, it rescheduled \$21 billion owed to the Paris Club of government creditors.

But it has since strayed off the strict inflation and budget deficit targets set by the IMF and will need to renegotiate those before asking for new money.

In New York, Brazil's chief debt negotiator Pedro Malan said that if the country could maintain economic stability the new accord would last.

"I have no doubt that if we maintain economic stability, this agreement can be the definitive agreement," Mr. Malan told a news conference.

Mr. Malan, looking haggard and gulping coffee after talks with bankers which ended at 5 a.m. Thursday, said the agreement took so long to negotiate because it was so complex.

"We were negotiating with a steering committee of about 20 banks, who were representing 600 or 700 creditor banks, each one with different interests. So it's difficult to please them all... it takes time," he said.

## Australia's jobless rate climbs to 11.1%

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's Labour government, which came to power in 1983 on the promise of more jobs, Thursday announced the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Analysts say the government needs to take drastic measures in its August budget to combat the unemployment crisis before an election due by May 1993.

One in nine workers was without a job in June as the unemployment rate jumped to 11.1 per cent. The number of people thrown on to dole queues because of Australia's stagnant economy soared by 57,600 to 963,500.

"The level of unemployment is clearly the most serious economic

problem facing Australia," Treasurer John Dawkins said. "The government ... is gravely concerned by these figures."

At a heated news conference Mr. Dawkins was asked: "It's an unacceptable, intolerable, appalling figure. Why should Australians not ask the government to resign?"

Mr. Dawkins replied: "I don't know whether they will put what we are doing is continuing with our objective to return this economy to growth. It is not a time for despair."

The rate eclipses May's 10.6 per cent and the government's prediction that unemployment would peak at 10.75 per cent.

"Clearly is you want any evi-

dence that we've got a national crisis in Australia it's today's unemployment data," said John Hewson, leader of the opposition Liberal-National coalition.

Support for the Labour government is running at only 35 per cent, according to a Morgan poll in the July 6 issue of Time Australia magazine.

The poll said the opposition, which last week unveiled its own solution to the jobs crisis with a plan to pay unemployed youths a minimum of three Australian dollars (\$2.25) an hour, had 45 per cent support and would have won an election in June.

The shocking rise in the unemployment rate to 11.1 per cent will increase the political pressure on the government to act," said Citibank Australia chief economist Grant Bailey.

The jobs crisis has progressively worsened despite cuts in interest rates to their lowest level in 30 years and signs that the economy is slowly emerging from an 18-month recession.

Mr. Dawkins said the government was working to develop a range of measures to deal with the jobless problem and the budget would contain employment and training initiatives.

He said Prime Minister Paul Keating planned to announce measures to address unemployment among 15 to 19-year-olds, which was at 35.8 per cent in June.

## Nissan to focus on quality, not quantity

TOKYO (R) — Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., facing uncertain global demand, a labour shortage and pressure to cut working hours, has entered an era where quality counts more than quantity, its new president has said.

"Although there are some signs of recovery in U.S. demand, the situation in Europe is far from clear and domestic growth will be flat at best," Yoshitomi Tsuji told a news conference.

"Considering this and other issues facing the car industry, we should put more stress on the quality rather than the quantity of the cars we sell," he said.

Apart from unpredictable demand, Japan's car industry also faces environmental demands, a strong yen, labour shortage and pressure to cut working hours, Mr. Tsuji said.

The company plans to boost overseas car output, although the increase is likely to be a slight one.

Nissan will use the launch of three new car models in the U.S. this year to strengthen sales there, since prospects in the U.S.

market are better than before, Mr. Tsuji said.

In the global market, Nissan has its eye on eastern Europe and China as potentially colossal markets, although it has not yet mapped out specific plans for business in those areas.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

|                   |                 |                  |  |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| One Sterling      | 1.909095        | U.S. dollars     |  |
| One U.S. dollar   | 1.189398        | Canadian dollar  |  |
|                   | 1.506370        | Deutsche marks   |  |
|                   | 1.698893        | Dutch guilders   |  |
|                   | 1.365060        | Swiss francs     |  |
|                   | 31.0206         | Belgian francs   |  |
|                   | 5.0760810       | French francs    |  |
|                   | 1139/1141       | Italian lire     |  |
|                   | 125.6375        | Japanese yen     |  |
|                   | 5.460050        | Swedish crowns   |  |
|                   | 5.9150200       | Norwegian crowns |  |
|                   | 5.800050        | Danish crowns    |  |
| One ounce of gold | \$349.35/349.85 |                  |  |

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## 29 States sign 'last' East-West arms accord

HELSINKI (R) — Twenty nine states, including the United States, Russia and seven other former Soviet republics, Friday signed what was billed as the last cold war arms control agreement.

The clumsily-entitled "Conventional Forces in Europe 1A" agreement regulates the number of troops each country can station between the Ural Mountains and the Atlantic — the European theatre which for four decades was the cauldron of cold war confrontation.

The main significance of the accord is to institutionalise a massive reduction of the armed forces of the former Soviet Union, which only a few years ago had almost four million men under arms.

Under the agreement, Russia will go down to 1.45 million men by the end of the century, Ukraine will be limited to 450,000 men and Belarus 100,000. The other former Soviet signatories — Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan — have yet to announce their troop limits.

A senior U.S. official said the agreement, signed by leaders attending the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) summit, marked the end of an epoch in arms control.

"What we have done this morning brings the curtain down on several years of negotiating conventional arms reduction agreements in Europe," he said.

Ironically, the agreement which would have been seen as amazing only two or three years ago, passed almost unnoticed at the summit, which has been dominated by the problem of how to deal with the civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

With the cold war consigned to history, there were no speeches or toasts to mark the occasion and only a handful of photographers turned up to record it.

The agreement gives the United States the right to station 250,000 troops in Europe but it is expected to leave substantially fewer. Britain can maintain 260,000 troops and France 320,000.

The agreement follows the original CFE treaty which slashed

tanks, aircraft and artillery but did not deal with manpower because of the collapse of the Soviet empire during the final stages of negotiations.

Following the conclusion of a new and radical agreement last month between the United States and Russia slashing superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons by two thirds, the traditional superpower agenda of arms control is at an end.

"We're now beyond the two blocs, tit-for-tat approach to European arms control. We've really finished that and the (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin visit to Washington marked the final conclusion of that kind of arms control," said the U.S. official.

But former Soviet satellites in East Europe still attached great importance to the conventional forces agreement because of fears that some future Russian government might one day again adopt expansionist policies.

Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary had pressed for the accord to be a binding treaty. Instead it is a political agreement which does not need ratification by the participants' parliaments.

Speaking in a Russian parliamentary debate earlier this week, Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Yel'tsin said the military equipment to be scrapped was old-fashioned and would cost more to maintain in service than to destroy.

He said Russia's tank forces would be reduced to the equivalent of 32 per cent of those of all NATO members and its air force to 50 per cent of the Western alliance.

President Yeltsin threw Russia's weight behind the creation of a European Rapid Reaction Force and said it must be deployed in a timely way to head off bloodshed across the fractious region.

The Russian leader, battered at home by neo-Communists and resurgent nationalists, also warned the CSCE that nationalism could become the plague of the 21st century.

"In the creation of a quick reaction force we must follow the experience of the United Nations," Mr. Yeltsin told the Euro-

pean Security Forum.

"But the most important thing is the timely activation of such a force not when blood has already begun to flow but when such conflicts are first being born," he said.

His remarks followed a decision by the Western European Union (WEU) defence grouping to launch an unprecedented naval operation in the Adriatic Sea to enforce U.N. sanctions against Serbia.

Mr. Yeltsin's idea broadly mirrored proposals by several other leaders, including President George Bush.

He made no direct reference to the WEU action but it was clear that Russia — a traditional ally of Serbia — was not prepared to back its European partners.

"Russia acutely recognises the danger of aggressive nationalism which is now replacing the ideological confrontation of the past," he declared.

"An epidemic of this disease could spin out of control and quickly grip an enormous number of people and entire states."

Mr. Yeltsin said all present trends — military, political and legal — pointed to the fact that nationalism threatened to emerge as "the real plague of the 21st century... if Europe is dear to us, then we must extinguish it."

Mr. Yeltsin reminded the security forum that his 1975 Helsinki Final Act contained tough human rights provisions aimed primarily at the Communist-led Soviet Union.

Now, ethnic Russians living in ex-Soviet republics faced threats of their own, he said.

"For many years it was demanded that Russia observe human rights. Now Russia itself demands it."

"We see that in (new) legislation several countries are strengthening provisions that establish standards of discrimination along ethnic lines," Mr. Yeltsin said in a thinly veiled blast at citizenship laws in the Baltic states.

"We decisively reject such actions because they infringe on the interests of millions of our fellow Russians. Such an approach is alien to elementary norms of our civilisation."

## Armenia, Azerbaijan welcome peace force

MOSCOW (AP) — Armenia and Azerbaijan on Thursday welcomed a decision by European leaders to send peacekeepers to the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, but both sides questioned where the troops would be deployed.

Both nations involved in the former Soviet Union's bloodiest ethnic battle accused each other of violating the latest ceasefire, with one Armenian report saying up to 55 people were killed in a tank and aerial assault by Azerbaijan.

The enclave in the southern Caucasus mountains is predominantly Armenian, but has been controlled by Azerbaijan since 1993. Fierce fighting broke out in 1988 after Nagorno-Karabakh began trying to secede from Azerbaijan, and an estimated 2,000 people have been killed since then.

The 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) said at its meeting in Helsinki, Finland, that it was ready to send peace monitors to Nagorno-Karabakh once a ceasefire was in place. A team of fewer than 100 unarmed observers from eight nations would take part, diplomats said.

Nagorno-Karabakh Vice Premier Boris Arushanian told Armenia's Snark News Agency that a stabilisation of the dispute was possible only if the peacekeeping force was deployed along the entire border with Azerbaijan.

This year, Armenian troops drove all Azerbaijani forces from the major cities in Nagorno-Karabakh and opened an overland route across a narrow strip of Azerbaijani land between the mountainous enclave and Armenia. In recent weeks, Azerbaijan has launched a counteroffensive to retake ground lost.

Tofik Veliev, a spokesman for Azerbaijan's president, said in an interview from the capital of Baku that officials there "welcome any real step toward peace."

But he added: "It is another question on what terms, and in what way the transfer of peacekeeping forces into Azerbaijan will be carried out. And will they be sent only to Karabakh?"

Various attempts at ceasefires this year have failed, including initiatives by Iran, Turkey and the European Community.

On Wednesday, Azerbaijani officials announced a unilateral truce for Nagorno-Karabakh at peace talks in Rome headed by CSCE representative Mario Raftelli.

The press centre of the Nagorno-Karabakh legislature said Azerbaijan launched its latest attack shortly after midnight Wednesday against several villages in the mountainous region from Azerbaijan's bordering Agdam region.

## Pretoria 'will act' to solve crisis

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government said Friday it would take the initiative to restart deadlocked democracy talks.

But the government said it would not be pressured into the move by pro-democracy protests including a general strike planned for next month by anti-apartheid forces.

"It is the government's responsibility to take the initiative to get out of this stalemate we are in," said Deputy Constitutional Development Minister Tertius Delpoit.

"The government is the trustee of constitutional government in South Africa and must therefore see that there is progress," he told a youth congress of President F.W. de Klerk's ruling National Party at Stellenbosch in Cape province.

The government previously said the impasse could be solved only if Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and its labour allies abandoned plans for "confrontation politics" and returned to the negotiating table. Mr. Mandela withdrew last month from talks which began in December on a multi-racial coalition in protest against alleged government complicity in a township massacre of 43 blacks. The ANC accuses the govern-

ment of seeking excessive constitutional protection for whites amounting to a veto over the wishes of the 5-1 black majority in a future democracy.

At a news conference Thursday, Mr. Mandela rejected an appeal by Mr. de Klerk for an urgent meeting, saying the president had failed to act on black township violence and lay the groundwork for a democracy-enfranchising voteless blacks.

Six thousand people have been killed in township unrest since Mr. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid in 1990.

Mr. Delpoit reiterated that the deadlock was caused by ANC "emotional politics," the South African Press Association reported.

But he added: "Mass mobilisation is part of a phase that must be sweated out. I hope I'm wrong, but possibly the ANC needs to go through this phase before reason prevails."

"I can assure you that threats or emotional pressure will not cause the government to move away from the approach of reason."

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said he had no idea what the government planned, adding he doubted it would bypass consultation with black opposition movements and unilaterally impose its

own blueprint for reforms. "We don't think de Klerk is that stupid. That is not an option that is available. It has been tried before and failed," he said, referring to attempted reforms by Mr. de Klerk's predecessor P.W. Botha. "There is consensus that both the government and the ANC are essential players."

Mr. Macozoma ruled out further arms-length haggling with Pretoria, saying the ANC did not want any more exchanges of notes on how to solve the deadlock.

Meanwhile Mr. Mandela is expected to participate in next week's Security Council debate on South Africa along with nine African foreign ministers, diplomats said Thursday.

"I can assure you he is coming," said Nigeria's ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, head of the General Assembly's Anti-Apartheid Committee. ANC spokesmen said they were not yet able to confirm Mr. Mandela would attend.

The meeting, tentatively set to begin on July 15, is an effort by African states to involve the Security Council in the escalating violence in South Africa and the stalemate talks on a non-racial constitution aimed at ending 300 years of white rule.

## Romanian supplies arms to Moldova

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania said Friday it had supplied weapons to neighbouring Moldova to help the former Soviet republic create its own armed forces.

A defence ministry spokesman confirmed a local newspaper report that Romania had delivered 2,000 automatic weapons, several armoured patrol cars and a small number of artillery pieces.

At the same time, Romania's parliament said a political solution was needed to end ethnic bloodshed in Moldova.

On Tuesday Moldova's parliament asked Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania and Belarus to send peace troops to the Dnestr region, where hundreds of people have been killed in fighting between Moldovan forces and

Russian separatists.

"Having taken into consideration Moldova's request, he considers a settlement of the conflict... is possible only by political means," the Romanian parliament said in a statement.

"Parliament will urge the government to ask the U.N. Security Council to intervene in case actions which jeopardise the independence and sovereignty of Moldova and its citizens continue."

The Moldovan parliament sent the request after the Commonwealth of ex-Soviet states offered troops to separate the warring factions in Moldova, which has a Romanian ethnic majority. Moldova became independent last August.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu said in Helsinki Thursday that Romania was ready to send peace forces to Moldova only if "all parties reach agreement."

About 65 per cent of Moldova's 4.3 million population are Romanians and most of the area belonged to Romania between the two world wars.

The Slav separatists in the Dnestr region are fighting to have their own state, arguing that Moldova will eventually unite with Romania and make them second-class citizens.

"We must send an encouraging message to our (Moldovan) brothers but one which will not get us involved," Romanian Senate leader Alexandru Birladeanu said Friday.

## Quebec premier studies Canada unity deal

QUEBEC CITY, Quebec (R) — Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa said he was studying an offer from the rest of Canada to reform the country's constitution and give the French-speaking province more autonomy.

However, he avoided any commitment to join negotiations on Canada's future formally.

"We want to build Quebec without destroying Canada," Mr. Bourassa told a televised news conference in his first public reaction to a proposal for sweeping constitutional changes agreed by Canada's English-speaking provinces last Tuesday.

Quebec has boycotted national unity talks since the collapse of the so-called Meech Lake Accord to reform the constitution in

1990.

Most political leaders and analysts said the offer — reached after a marathon, last-minute bargaining session by the English-speaking premiers Tuesday — contains the right foundation for a final agreement. Under the new package Quebec would have more autonomy, while the now largely ineffectual Senate would gain power.

Asked if he would go to a meeting of the provincial premiers expected next week to discuss the proposals, Mr. Bourassa said: "If we are called to this meeting at that time, we will make a decision (on whether to attend)."

Mr. Bourassa said the proposals from the other nine provinces

represented some progress towards what Quebec saw as necessary to resolve its problems with English-speaking Canada.

But the Quebec premier said he was perplexed by certain parts of the proposals, especially a reform of the senate which would reduce the representation of Quebec.

The main sticking point for Quebec deals with a reformed Senate, which under the new offer would leave Quebec's representation at less than 10 per cent, compared with about 23 per cent now.

Quebeckers fear they would have less say in a reformed Senate, which would wield more power than the current appointed Senate.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Thailand premier reduces army's power

BANGKOK (AP) — The prime minister has stripped the military of crisis powers that it used in May against pro democracy protesters. Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun revoked the supreme military commander's control of the internal peacekeeping command, and divided up its powers among other agencies such as the Interior Ministry, Mr. Anand's office announced. Soldiers killed at least 43 pro-democracy protesters and wounded hundreds after Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon declared a state of emergency during May 17-20 protests against his appointment, protesters were angry that he was appointed directly from his post as army chief, and was not elected. Gen. Suchinda resigned in disgrace May 24. Mr. Anand said it would be up to the parliament elected in September to decide whether to repeal the law creating the peacekeeping command.

#### Sri Lankan troops take rebel town

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops captured a guerrilla-held town in northern Sri Lanka and sealed off the rebel-controlled Jaffna peninsula, officials said. A last six soldiers were killed in Thursday's fighting, military officials said. Soldiers advanced 1 1/2 kilometres Thursday and captured the town of Iyakachchi, about 293 kilometres northeast of Colombo, after a fierce battle. Colonel Sarath Munasinghe, the army's spokesman, said the army has now sealed off the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula from the rest of the island. On Wednesday, the army consolidated its position at nearby Shakathiruvai town, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. A large number of rebels were believed killed when army tanks, artillery and aircraft pounded rebel positions before soldiers reached the town, officials said.

#### Shuttle lands safely in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Columbia touched down Thursday a day late and a continent away to end the longest-ever shuttle flight, a 14-day research mission intended as a rehearsal for NASA's space station. The shuttle swooped across a clear sky and landed on the concrete runway at Kennedy Space Centre an hour after sunrise. It was diverted to Florida because of rain at the preferred landing site — Edwards Air Force Base in California. "Congratulations on the longest shuttle flight on record. Thanks for helping to pave the way to space station operations," mission control's Ken Reighalter told the crew.

#### Massive black hole discovered

WASHINGTON (R) — Two U.S. astronomers reported evidence of a black hole with the mass of one billion suns, much more massive than any previously detected, in a galaxy 30 million light years from Earth. Observations from a telescope on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, showed evidence of the black hole in the galaxy NGC 3115 that is 100 times more massive than any other black hole that has been detected. Astronomers John Kormendy of the University of Hawaii and Douglas Richstone of the University of Michigan reported their finding in the July 10 issue of the Astrophysical Journal.

#### Ariane deploys two satellites

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — Western Europe's 51st Ariane rocket placed two satellites into orbit for India and a European consortium late Thursday after a launch from French Guiana. Observers at a control centre 12 kilometres from the European Space Agency's launch pad on the northeast coast of South America felt the ground shake during lift-off at 7.42 p.m. (2242 GMT). Bright light lit up a cloudless equatorial night sky for more than six minutes. Twenty minutes after lift-off the Ariane 4 rocket, equipped with four liquid strap-on boosters, the most powerful in the Ariane rocket series, deployed Insat-2A, a 1,906-kg (4,201-pound) satellite for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Shortly after Insat-2A was deployed, the Eutelsat 2-F4 satellite, built by an international consortium led by France's Aerospatiale, separated from the Ariane launcher. The Eutelsat and the Insat were valued at more than \$100.

## Indian government rocked; minister quits

NEW DELHI (R) — A minister who helped push through radical reforms to open up India's protected economy has resigned over links to the country's biggest financial scandal, officials said Friday.

The resignation of Commerce Minister Pannabhai Chidambaram, one of the three architects of economic liberalisation, was accepted by President Ramaswamy Venkateswaram Thursday night, a spokesman for the president's office said.

Mr. Chidambaram appeared in parliament Friday but made no statement and refused to speak to the press. His resignation was not raised because parliament was adjourned after pandemonium erupted over the construction of a temple on the site of a mosque, a major religious dispute.

On Thursday, Mr. Chidambaram had made public a letter to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in which the confessed to having invested money in a company being investigated in the one-billion-dollar scandal.

He said his wife Nalini, who managed the family's financial affairs, had invested 250,000 rupees (\$9,500) of their money in Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd (FFSL), named by the central bank as involved in the securities transaction scam.

"It is my sincere hope that these small investments will not cause any embarrassment to the government," Mr. Chidambaram, 46, said in the letter to Mr. Rao.

"If they do, I would have no hesitation in stepping down from the office of minister. I leave the matter to your judgment."

A total of 31.92 billion rupees (\$1.2 billion) worth of transactions between banks and financial institutions was not backed by securities or was backed by fraudulent securities, the government has said.

Fairgrowth received 2.4 billion rupees (\$92 million) from a subsidiary of state-owned Andhra Bank while having over securities worth only 1.35 billion rupees (\$52 million), the Reserve Bank of India has said.

## COLUMN

### Rembrandt fetches £4.18 million

LONDON (R) — A portrait by Dutch master Rembrandt Van Rijn was bought for £4.18 million (\$6.04 million) in London. Auctioneers Sotheby's said. The portrait of Preacher Johannes Uytenbogaert, signed by the artist and dated 1633, was one of the largest and most important Rembrandts still in private hands, it said. It was bought by an unnamed private overseas collector and put up for sale by the English Earl of Rosebery. The painting had been in the earl's family for more than 130 years. The world record price for a Rembrandt was set at Sotheby's in December 1986 when a portrait of a girl wearing a gold-trimmed cloak sold for £7.26 million (\$13.97 million at current exchange rates).

### Scan captures human brain in thought

LONDON (R) — Researchers in the United States have caught the human brain in the act of thinking, new scientist magazine reported. It said the breakthrough was achieved using a scanning technique known as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), which works by subjecting the body to an intense magnetic field. The research is being conducted by a team from the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis and ATT Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. New scientist quoted ATT's David Tank as saying the aim of the work was to discover more about the workings of the brain, including thought processes, and apply this to computers. MRI brain scans could also help surgeons plan operations or pinpoint epileptic activity, the magazine said. The U.S. team obtained the "thought scans" — changing coloured images of blood flow to the brain when activity increases — by scanning the brains of conscious volunteers every 10 seconds while exposing them to alternating periods of flashing lights and darkness. New scientist said other methods of observing brain activity existed but were still experimental or involved surgery or exposure to radiation.

### Doctors: Yeltsin must cycle, swim to stay in shape

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin is in good health and has great stamina despite his heavy workload, but doctors recommended he swim, play tennis and use an exercise bicycle to stay fit, a news agency said Thursday. Mr. Yeltsin was asked by his physician to undergo a complete physical examination — his first in five years — because his workload has greatly increased since the became Russian president two years ago, ITAR-TASS said. In recent months, the robust, white-haired Siberian took several unannounced vacations for unspecified medical reasons, causing alarm that he had either a heart ailment or a drinking problem. "On the whole, the president's health is good," ITAR-TASS quoted the official doctors' report as saying. It was made public in response to requests from readers of the popular weekly Argumenty i Fakty, where it soon will be published. "He is bothered by a feeling of fatigue, which is expressed by minor vascular reactions. His heart rate, the minor fluctuations in his blood pressure, and the condition of his heart and blood vessels are within normal limits," the report said. Tests of physical exertion, including sports, confirm that the patient has great stamina, the report said. "To improve his condition and capacity for dealing with his heavy workload, physical activities such as using an exercise bicycle, playing tennis and swimming are recommended."

### Cypriot surgeons mend turtle's broken skull

NICOSIA (R) — Surgeons mended a turtle's smashed skull in hospital with a plastic implant after someone may have deliberately hit it on the head, an official said. The 15 kilometre female loggerhead is recovering in the bathroom of Fisheries Department chief Andreas Demetropoulos. "It had either been caught in a fishing net or bashed on the head with a spear gun — it was not an accident," he added. It was washed up near the only Mediterranean turtle hatchery at Larn, northwest Cyprus, funded by the European Community. Two Nicosia neurosurgeons fitted an acrylic skull piece.

مركز الصحافة